

# EQUALIZING X DISTORT

Volume 8, Issue 1

- Sudbury Edition -

February 2008

*STATUES were in town in the fall to play FUCKED UP FEST II. We contacted them and they agreed to come in and do a Studio 3 session. Here is a conversation that took place after their set. This interview was conducted on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007.*

**Introduce yourselves and tell us what you do in the band ?**

Rob (R): I'm Rob and I play some guitar and do some singing.

Jeff (J): I'm Jeff and I play the drums and I do some singing.

Mitch (M): I'm Mitch and I play bass and sing. **So you all sing. How long has STATUES been around for ?**

R: Four years.

**And how come we haven't heard of you before this ?**

R: We're from Sudbury.

**How did the band form ? How did you come together ? Tell us your story.**

J: Well we all played in a band called the HAVOCS together. And then Rob left the band. Rob got mad at us, quit the band, and then a couple of years later he wanted to start again. He wrote a new batch of songs and wanted to start as a new band. We were five people jamming together.

R: There was a dude who played a fretless bass and it sounded like GRACELAND.

M: We kicked him out because he showed up with a fretless bass.

**How do you play a fretless bass ?**

M: You don't. It plays you.

**Okay. So you started off as a five-piece.**

R: Well not really because what happened was



Mitch and Rob with their vocal interplay.

## STATUES

we couldn't get all five people together all the time so Mitch wasn't actually in the band at first.

M: I was just filling in for whoever wasn't there.

R: He would play guitar one week and bass the next.

**That is crazy. So you had to learn the songs from all different instruments.**

M: Yeah, pretty much.

R: And then it was just the three of us.

**What was the idea behind the band when you first started out ?**

R: Really when we started out we wanted to be a total '79 British punk band like the BUZZCOCKS. Like the stuff we listen to all the time. It didn't sound like that at first though.

**It does now.**

R: At first we were listening to too much FUGAZI or something.

**Yeah, but now it is just amazing.**

R: Thanks.

**Who do you consider influences on the band? We started talking about the BUZZCOCKS. Who else might you cite. The JAM ?**

M: The JAM. The WHO, DEVO. With my bass playing I like to play DEVO bass playing. You know just punk rock and power pop and new wave.

**What have people said you sound like ?**

M: Like shit. The punk is light but its fast so its okay. I don't know.

R: Probably like power pop and mod and punk. Like sometimes we get compared to the BRIEFS.

**The name the STATUES, where does that come from ?**

R: HUSKER DU.



Jeff on drums.



M: It was their first single.

**So you don't sound like HUSKER DU though.**

R: No, but we totally love them. Sometimes at Christmas we will do a whole set of HUSKER DU songs.

**Really ?**

R: Yeah.

**Do you do other covers ?**

J: Yeah. We do a POINTED STICKS cover. CARPETTES. GG ALLIN.

R: The DAMNED.

J: STIFF LITTLE FINGERS.

**Some of that makes sense and some of that is weird like GG ALLIN.**

R: The older stuff is wicked.

M: His poppy stuff in the beginning. Pre shit eating I guess.

**If you had to limit your record collection to five punk releases what would they be ?**

R: Whatever.

**Come on. Five off the top of your head.**

R: First CLASH record for sure.

M: The BUZZCOCKS, one of their albums.

R: "Another Music in a Different Kitchen"

M: Or "Love Bites".

R: I would probably have to say "Damaged", but I don't really like how it sounds so the first two or three BLACK FLAG eps. So we could say "Everything Went Black" because it is that collection of material.

M: The WHO "My Generation".

R: And maybe "Look Sharp" by JOE JACKSON.

**That's a great record. People don't think about it too much.**

R: I think about it all the time.

**And later on he went to do jazz. You just kind of write him off, but his first two LPs are amazing. Actually I hear some of it in your sound because you play very fast and sharp like that.**

R: Cool. Thanks.

**Who writes the lyrics ? You all do singing so do you take turns writing lyrics or is there one person who writes the lyrics ?**

R: I write most of the lyrics.

**Okay. What are some of the things you are singing about ? You do a song called "Shipping News". Is it related to the movie?**

R: No. It's just a title. Just a play on words. Media stuff. I write about offices. I write about where I work. Office politics. There is a lot of politics in everyday life. That is pretty much everything we write about.

**What is your favourite STATUES song from a lyrical standpoint and why ?**

R: Probably "Pinpoint" because it is new.

**And what's that about ? Why do you like it?**

R: I was watching the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial of the Battle at Vimy Ridge. It's kind of about that. Using it as a metaphor for going to work everyday.

**Going to war everyday.**

M: It's the same thing.

R: You take a job in your field and then you die in it.

# EQUALIZING DISTORT

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

EQUALIZING-X-DISTORT MONTHLY is an extension of the weekly radio show heard on CIUT 89.5 FM every Sunday nights from 10:00pm 'til midnight (Participants: Dave Brown, Stephe Perry, and Mark Rodenhizer).

The show dedicates itself to the underground hardcore punk scene. There is a particular emphasis on international releases in the developing thrash, power violence, straight edge, retro punk, garage, Killed By Death, the crust, and oi scenes, which means we play material like No Violence, Hatred Surge, Trust, Squalora, Kacka-Hata 77, the Toyotas, The Existers, and Oi Polloi.

There is a weekly demo feature (paying homage to the cassette format), weekly event listings, and a monthly top 10 retrospective look at new releases.

**Equalizing-X-Distort**

CIUT 89.5 FM

Sundays 10:00 pm - midnight

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## CIUT 89.5 FM - "Equalizing Distort" Top 10 Hardcore Releases for December 2007

Band	Title	Format	Label
1. CRIMINAL DAMAGE	"No Solution"	LP	Feral Ward
2. EVERYTHING FALLS APART	"Tension"	ep	Art of the Underground
3. SKITZOS	"Faster! Louder! Better!"	ep	Longshot
4. VARIOUS ARTISTS	"Trapped in a Scene"	CD	625 Productions
5. BANDANOS	"We Crush Your Mind with Trash Inside"	CD	Peculio Discos
6. WHITE LUNG	"Local Garbage"	ep	Hockey Dad
7. CROSS LAWS	"Ancient Rites"	ep	Sorry State
8. ARTIMUS PYLE	"Tonight is the End of Your Way"	ep	Insane Society
9. BORED TO DEATH	s/t	ep	Sorry State
10. INSECT WARFARE	"World Extremination"	CD	625 Productions

Equalizing Distort can be heard every Sunday night on CIUT 89.5 FM at 10:00 pm. The top 10 countdown can be heard in its entirety, complete with previews of the picks and analysis on the previous month in hardcore, on the last Sunday of the month.



**What about the rest of you ? Do you have a favourite song from a lyrical standpoint ?**

M: I don't listen to the words.

J: I like "Last Stand". I really like those lyrics.  
**What's it about ?**

J: I don't know. I'm not sure. It's just mainly the melody. It's just fixed in a nice little pocket.

**How many records do you have out ? Is there just the 12" ?**

R: No.

**What are the others called ?**

R: We have one from before called "AUX.". It's a full length which is pretty different. Well it's not really. It's kind of the same.

**When did it come out ?**

R: That came out in 2004.

**Did you self-release it ?**

R: We did initially, but it pretty quickly got picked up by a small label out of California called *Pelado Records*.

M: Palato, Platatoe.

**Tomato, Tomatote.**

M: And it's actually being re-released on *P-Trash* on vinyl.

**Out of Germany ?**

M: Yeah.

**Wicked. So it was a CD originally ?**

R: It was a CD. We actually wrote and recorded before we ever played live. So I got some money back from the government because I didn't file my taxes for a long time.

**And you just put it into that. Wicked.**

M: And we have another 7" out too called "Statues Are go". That came out on a label in Sudbury called *Basement Fire*.

R: Which is also being released in a very limited run on *Radio 81* and *P-Trash*.

**When did that come out ?**

R: In 2005.

**So a year later.**

R: Yeah.

M: And then we have a forthcoming 7" on *Deranged Records*. It should be out in a few months or something.

R: As soon as the artwork gets done.

M: A couple of compilation tracks too. We donated these songs to a tribute to power pop. It's going to be coming out this year on *P-Trash* and *Radio 81*.

R: Pretty much everything comes out on *Radio 81* and *P-Trash*. He does a "Killed by Death" cover comp series. Have you heard of those?

**No I haven't.**

R: He calls them "Killed by Trash" and he gets a bunch of bands to do "Killed by Death" covers and releases it. So we did the SODS song "Television Sect".

**Wow. That's pretty cool. Is there a place that you do all your recordings at in Sudbury or do you record in a practice space?**

R: There is a studio in town that we use. A friend of ours runs it.

**What is the scene like in Sudbury?**

R: Right now it is wicked.

**There have been a lot of bands through here that are from Sudbury and they are all wicked.**



Rob, Jeff, and Mitch  
in the CIUT parking lot.

M: There are a lot of good punk rock bands.

**You don't think of Sudbury as being a place where great rock or punk comes out of. You know, it's the big nickel right ? People go there to mine and that's about it.**

M: No there is a really good scene. The kids will come out to shows. Even if it is all local bands the kids will support it.

R: It is super varied too. There is a lot of styles of punk. Not everybody is doing the same thing you know like when something gets popular and everyone is doing it.

**Well ULTRA VIOLENCE RAY remind me of the DESECENDENTS. Like a more hardcore power pop sound. VICIOUS CYCLE are more straight forward hardcore. Who else would you recommend that we pay attention to ?**

R: There is a band called LIVING DAYLIGHTS which are pretty wicked. They remind me of one of those *No Idea* kind of bands. Beard punk.

M: Poutine punk. I would say QUASI MEPRIS. They are like a prog type noise jazz band. They are alright.

R: THIS SHIP WILL BURN are pretty neat. They have a couple of 7"s out.

**What about other things like is there good venues ?**

R: There is the Townhouse. It is the only place for bar shows. And then there is the all ages shows everywhere, but they are kind of expensive to get a hall and stuff like that.

**What about record stores ? Is there any good record stores in town ?**

R: There is one independent record store. It has been around for 30 years called Records on Wheels. One of the old Record on Wheels chain.

**Actually the old Records on Wheels in Toronto used to sell punk records and they were really good. But they closed down.**

R: Yeah. They all do.

**The radio station ?**

R: There's a campus station CKLU at Laurentian, but I don't really know to be honest I haven't really listened to it in a couple of years so I don't even know what the programming is like now.

**I remember going there for a radio conference and they were all really cool there. I think they were run out of a portable at the time.**

R: It was yeah. It's actually moved into the student centre building now.

**It was early days I guess. What are the band's plans for the next little while ? You have a record coming out on *Deranged*...**

M: We are touring actually in a couple of weeks. We are going out to the east coast. We are going to go and play Sydney and back in a week and a half.

**So you are not going to go to Newfoundland?**

R: No. It's too expensive.

**It's far and time consuming.**

R: You would need an extra five days just to do three shows.

M: We kind of just booked this tour at the last minute. We were supposed to be touring in Europe, but that got postponed until the spring so we decided we just wanted to get out and go to the east coast and back.

**It'll be good.**

R: Yeah we did it last year. It was fun.

**Okay so you have been there before. How can people get in touch with you ?**

R: Myspace is the best way.

**What's the myspace address ?**

R: [myspace.com/statues](http://myspace.com/statues)

M: Or if you are old school and you like websites you can go to [www.statues.ca](http://www.statues.ca)

R: And then it just re-directs you to our myspace site because I am a lazy git.



Nico, Frank, and Joey.

*VICIOUS CYCLE are a 5-piece from the Big Nickel. Like DS-13 they share a fondness for MINOR THREAT as an influence, which according to the interview is somewhat of a residue from their past band PROVEN. But like DS-13 VICIOUS CYCLE live in Northern climbs so an argument could be made that maybe this influence has something to do with latitude or isolation. This interview took place in the summer of last year part way through their Canadian tour.*

#### **Introduce yourselves and tell us what you do in the band ?**

Nico (N): My name is Nico. I am the vocalist in VICIOUS CYCLE. And I help write some of the songs.

Mark (M): My name is Mark. I play drums. I help write some of the songs as well.

#### **And who is missing ?**

M: Frank is missing. He plays bass. Joey is missing. He plays guitar. Lead guitar actually. Curtass is missing. He plays guitar as well. And Zack the roadie is missing, forever. We don't know where he went.

#### **How did VICIOUS CYCLE form ? How long have you been around for ?**

N: VICIOUS CYCLE has been around for two years now. Everybody in the band, other than Curtass, used to be in a band called PROVEN, which was more of a youth crew type of a band. That didn't work out for whatever reason. So after that we tried to do our own thing but nothing worked out so we got back together and started VICIOUS CYCLE. We all had the same idea of what we wanted to do and that's basically how it got together.

**Okay. What was the idea because I hear a certain sound that you guys are playing so I am just wondering what was the idea**

## **VICIOUS CYCLE**

#### **behind VICIOUS CYCLE ?**

M Well when we were in the aforementioned band we were playing music that we didn't really not only connect to but listen to anymore or weren't interested in. Most of us were probably listening to BLACK FLAG's "My War" on repeat. So we wanted to do something really loud, but still maintain an early 80's hardcore sound. NEGATIVE APPROACH. POISON IDEA.

N: And also with the earlier band there was more of a metaphorical posi type thing. Before I got into youth crew and 80's stuff I was more into MINOR THREAT, DEAD KENNEDYS, BLACK FLAG. I got into that through skateboarding. Stuff like that when I was

younger. So I think I just got fed up with the old band and we just said lets just do straight up anger.

M: Yeah. Let's be pissed off for once.

**I do hear a blend of two sounds. I do hear some youth crew. I mean you guys remind me of DS-13 and CAREER SUICIDE and that kind of stuff. I see CAREER SUICIDE as sort of a retro early American hardcore sound, which is what you are talking about with BLACK FLAG and POISON IDEA and NEGATIVE APPROACH, but I do hear some stuff like DS-13 who were copying the MINOR THREAT sound so I hear a bit of that too. Would you consider some of that accurate ?**

M: Yeah I think that probably comes through with actually a lot of the time it's Nico and myself that write the guitar riffs and all the parts and then we assemble the songs and the bass and guitar. Joey and Curtass put some in after so I guess Nico has a bit of the youth crew sound still lingering somewhere in his subconscious. Sometimes we have to remind him 'No we don't want that high of a riff. You know bring it down a bit.' I think that's pretty accurate.

N: I think our newer stuff is more early American style. Our first 7" and our earlier stuff has more of a youth crew thing. We were experimenting in what we wanted to do. For the record I got sick of hardcore and how it had become a formula. From a ringing first part breakdown like every other band so we just started trying to do something different from what's common right now.

#### **When did you record the first ep ? Was it close to when you started up again ?**

M: It was Janaury 2006.

#### **And how long had you been a band ?**

N: A couple of months.

#### **Maybe it was part of your transition.**

N: It was definitely a transition between both bands.



Michael





M: The first record that we put out, I wasn't a member of the band. You know there was a transition between that and the newest ep "I'm Watching You". And even now we just recorded a new ep and it's pretty different. We started off with "Neon Electric" which is the title track off the new ep. So that's not out yet. Even that is quite different from what we are doing on the latest ep that is released. So we are always trying to move forward. We seem



Curtass

to be getting more experimental. I mean he's been completely immersed in the DEAD KENNEDYS lately reading Jello Biafra.

**Yeah but he's a good person to keep going back to. There's a lot in his stuff. I think that's good. I always find stuff out of that. And I think that it makes sense that you develop your sound. As you get comfortable with each other, as you start playing better you kind of need to challenge yourself as much as anything. You need to satisfy yourselves in terms of making music.**

N: I think we've matured as musicians because at first we wanted to fit in by easing our way into what was going on. As time goes on we try to get away from what is going on.

**Almost distinguish yourselves.**

N: At first it was like and it still happens now where people compare us to whatever bands like VIOLENT MINDS. Well VIOLENT MINDS just broke up. And CAREER SUICIDE. Not that that's a bad thing. We like those bands. But with our new stuff we kind of want to make ourselves one thing and not always be referred to as 'the brother bands to blah blah blah'.

M: I think we probably have to keep moving forward because even when Nico is writing a riff and it sounds too formulated or too stuck in a mold we'll make fun of him until he

changes it. Or whoever writes the riff. It's not necessarily Nico or even a drumbeat or whatever. So I think making fun of each other is a leading key to determining what we sound like.

**Not to beat a dead horse but who do you consider influences on the band ? The reason why I ask this is that you are starting to listen to different things so I'm curious. I'm mostly interested in punk things. I'm not interested in avante garde things or whatever.**

N: Well obviously MINOR THREAT. As far as now is concerned at the end of MINOR THREAT they started getting more experimental with their stuff.... More of a rock sound. That started to play on me. DEAD KENNEDYS like I said is a favourite band because all their records are so different. You just never know what to expect from them. It's like I want to keep some of that energy. But as far as more current bands DEAD STOP I really like that band. 86 MENTALITY, CAREER SUICIDE, SET TO EXPLODE. Those are more current bands that play on me.

M: I think uh....not so much influences playing directly on what we sound like. Lately I know myself and Joey....all we have been listening to is doom metal. Because we got into "My War" real early and followed with



Frank on sleeveless shirt and Joey on beard.

things like BONGZILLA and BORIS and heavy rock. So I think that comes into explain how loud we are trying to be. We really want to be a loud band. I don't know why. We always talk about it.

**That reminds me of UNDER PRESSURE and how they went that way.**

M: Exactly. Like Nico said later BLACK FLAG stuff.

**Can you tell me .... And I don't want you to do too much thinking about this ... if you had to limit your record collection to five releases what would they be ? Off the top of your head.**

N: DEAD KENNEDYS "Plastic Surgery Disasters", MINOR THREAT discography, BLACK FLAG "The Early Four Years / Nervous Breakdown", CIRCLE JERKS "Group Sex", and the ADOLESCENTS self-titled.

M: ZERO BOYS "Vicious Circle", BLACK FLAG "My War", MINOR THREAT "Out of Step", RITES OF SPRING "End on End", and POISON IDEA "Feel the Darkness".

**Seeing as you mentioned ZERO BOYS does the name come from there ?**

N: Yeah it does.

**And has it taken on any significance ?**

M: Not really but this morning I walked into a 7-11 to ask directions on how to get to this place and I was wearing a VICIOUS CYCLE pin and the clerk told one that we need to change our name to VICIOUS CIRLCE because VICIOUS CYCLE is incorrect.

**Incorrect ? What does he mean by that ?**

M: I guess he was referring to the mathematicians. I think there is a mathematical term, Vicious Circle.

N: I don't know what it is in the province of Quebec it is always VICIOUS CIRCLE. Although our name is VICIOUS CYCLE on

the flyers it's always VICIOUS CIRCLE. I don't know if it's hard to pronounce in French or what but it always ends up that way. We're not even trying to debate it anymore.

M: And we've been noticing that there is a lot of prog rock and nu metal bands that share the same name, which is understandable, I guess.

**It's unfortunate. Nico, do you write the lyrics ?**

N: Yeah.

**What are some of the things you are singing about ?**

N: I'll tell you specifically about the newer stuff now. Okay I am just going to ramble off. Our newest stuff "I'm Watching You". It goes from straight up subjects such as our song "Annoy" which is a song about working with a person you completely dislike to no end but you have to just put up with it just for the sake of the job. But then there's some more ... Every song is pretty straight up. There is a song called "Bent" which is a song about the state of hardcore. You go to shows and it seems like a jock kind of thing where people just want to dance hard and half the time they don't know the band, they don't know the words. It doesn't even matter what they are singing about ....  
**...they just want a beat.**

N: Type of thing like that. The lyrics are "Do you hear my words, do you sense my rage, somethings bent up inside and there's actually

something I've got to say". Just to show that there's an actual reason for why people are into punk or hardcore. You feel alienated in society. You don't match up with what's going on and I'm trying to keep a meaning to hardcore because now it seems like so many hardcore bands are in the mainstream and hardcore has just lost its meaning. So you see people screaming but what's it about ? I guess I could talk about one more. "Neon Electric". That's our title track from our new record as well as the first song we did today. It's about people who go to shows just because they are so used to going to shows. It's a routine. They go, they have a couple of drinks ... It's more of a social thing. They've lost the meaning of what it used to be about. The lyrics are sarcastic as if I was talking like I was the jaded one but it is not about me. "I don't want to be amongst all ages because I am so much higher than that" because once people get into their 20's or whatever they are like I'm not going to all ages shows anymore because it's younger kids. They don't know what it's about. Which maybe true but either way. Like in Sudbury there is a lot of people like that. A lot of old people who used to go to shows who just don't do it anymore and I think it's really a shame.

**What's your favourite song from a lyrical standpoint and why ? A VICIOUS CYCLE song.**

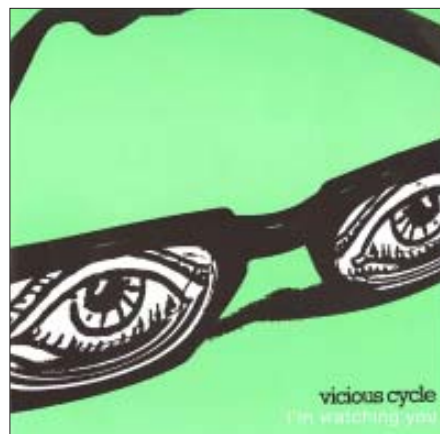
M: I like "I'm Watching You". I think it's creepy as hell. It's about people who are voyeuristic. They are constantly obsessed and completely out of touch with anything other than celebrity life you know worshipping at the altar of the stars. Hollywood stars. I just think it's bullshit. I mean when there is natural disasters all over the world and we are covering some stupid Paris Hilton getting out of jail for drunk driving in a \$200,000 Mercedes vehicle.... It's just ....where are the priorities at ?

N: For me I'm going to say our newer record

that's going to come out... there is a song called "Stepping Back", which is about trying to find yourself... your place in the world. I'm not saying I'm not happy with where I'm at, but you are always pushing it trying to find where you really stand. I use touring as a metaphor ... like 'the van is moving forward but I'm

stepping back. I want to take a breath, but I can't change that'. It's about trying to find myself and it's not necessarily easy. Am I holding on to what I've got or am I going to let go and keep searching. For me that means a lot to me.

**I was thinking about the van story that you**







Nico with Curtass and Frank in the background.

**were telling me about your trailer. Do you want to tell us about that story ?**

M: We stopped in Moncton and there is this club that we played at called the Paramount. It was this really bad show. There was like 20 mid 30's black metal worshipping people. It was just crazy and the promoter booted one of the bands that went on before us. Just saying that they sucked and that there was another band that was after us and they played for a couple of hours because they are an indie folk band from Sudbury. They were booted as well. Between every song he would just scream at them at the top of his lungs. Towards the end of the show we were like let's just get the fuck out of here. We never want to play Moncton again, but I guess we should be fair. There was a WHITE STRIPES show that night and it was a Monday night and no one showed up. **It seems like WHITE STRIPES were stealing your thunder on the tour.**

N: Yeah, twice.

M: So we went out back where we were parked in an alley and we were with another band called LIVING DAYLIGHTS. They are from Sudbury. They are all drunk as hell. So Nico and I decided to drive their van and everyone

else from VICIOUS CYCLE decided to drive ours because we were fine to drive so we switched a couple of members. We were ready to go and this dick promoter comes out and his balls are hanging out of his pants and he's like 'What's wrong man ? You guys don't like monkey brains ?' And we were like 'No. No. We like them. We just don't like you. Fuckin' leave us alone.' And he's like 'Here. I'll help you with the trailer' because we had the trailer around because the third wheel ... our roadie let go of our trailer at some point in Quebec and it went cascading down this hill and smashed into a

sidewalk and almost flew over this mountain and landed on a bunch of vehicles and kids and whatever the hell was down at the bottom of the hill. So lately we've been having to lift the trailer up, which is about 3,000 lbs. So we are all straining ourselves trying to lift the trailer up and this guy has his family jewels hanging out of his pants and he was just putting them in our face and stuff. We're trying to lift the trailer and we were like 'Can you just get the fuck out of here please. Just leave.' And he's like 'No. No. I'll help you. So he starts lifting it and our guitarist Curtass, he's always getting everyone in trouble ... he grabs a bottle of water and he empties it on the guy's balls and this doesn't even phase the guy and he grabs his balls and just starts flipping them around doing the helicopter or whatever it is and water splashing everywhere so Nico and I are just thinking this is fucking insane. We are never coming back to Moncton ever again. It's crazy. It doesn't make any sense. So we jumped in the van and we printed up a page on Map Quest and we were like 'Let's go to Halifax'. It obviously didn't turn out much better. Whoever that guy is ... you're insane. **Okay you have to excuse my ignorance, but is there much of a scene in Sudbury. Like who will you guys play with ? Because for people who might not know Sudbury is like a mining town right ?**

M: Yeah. Exactly.

**With a few Colleges.**

M: Without Inco and Falconbridge now Xstrata due to the recent takeover Sudbury would be completely and utterly a ghost town. I mean no one will be there at all.

N: More so than it is now.

M: The streets on a Saturday night after 5:00pm which is pretty ironic because the Stompin' Tom song "Sudbury Saturday Night".

**It says the opposite.**

M: Yeah. There is a couple of bingo halls that closed down town and everyone just goes home. But there is a band from Sudbury called the STATUES who are on *Deranged Records* apparently. They are going to Europe pretty soon. They are pretty much the best power pop band I've ever seen and probably one of the best power pop bands to come out of Canada in a couple of years alongside of the TRANZMITORS. They are just really good. I love playing with them. They are good guys. We played



with them in Montreal not too long ago. Actually their singer, his wife is in labour when he played the show so he had to drive all the way home from there show in Montreal so he could see his kid being born. They are great. They have a couple of releases out. One of them is on *Radio 81* with us. It's called "New People Make Us Nervous". Great LP. Also as mentioned previously LIVING DAYLIGHTS. They are a melodic hardcore band kind of like LIFETIME, not to throw in too many influences here. They are a great band as well. We just finished a week long tour with them. They are gone home for now, but probably some of the best guys you will ever meet and really good music as well. They played last night at Break North fest, which is like a hardcore fest in Montreal. We missed it by a couple of hours. Apparently they had a great set so good for them. Hats off to them. But as fas as shows go in Sudbury we have had CAREER SUICIDE, FUCKED UP, THE ENDLESS BLOCKADE have played. So we are always getting a lot of Toronto bands.

**Someone said you guys are putting on shows.**

M: Yeah. Our bassist, Frank, puts on an exorbitant amount of shows. It's incredible. Pretty much on a weekly basis he is bringing in bands from all over Canada and the US and Europe. Wherever right ? I mean we had the REGULATIONS play. That was a really good show. And that was a bar show as well. So the scene is actually really good.

**Are there lots of kids who are apart of the scene ?**

M: Probably anywhere from 100 or 200 kids per show.

**It's just that I never heard of good hardcore bands coming out of Sudbury ever until you guys so I'm thinking how can this band be so amazing and come out of nothing ? It's not like you guys are the only example of that. There was bands like SONS OF ISHMAEL in the early 80's who came out of a place called Meaford. A tiny town. An amazing hardcore band and they went on to influence all kinds of levels in Europe. They came out of this small town where the only thing they had going for them was an army museum. That was the only thing the town had. You guys are from Sudbury. I**

**know that there has been a scene there. I have seen alternative bands but this is like years ago. I had no clue that there was a good hardcore scene. And then I hear your ep and it is like ... it just caught me off guard. I thought it was incredible and I'm just thinking how does this great band come out of nowhere ?**

M: I think it's basically ... if you were to sit down and



Frank, Joey, Curtass, Nico and Mike in the back of their trailer.

read some of Nico's lyrics you would understand exactly why there is hardcore bands flourishing in Sudbury right now. There is absolutely nothing to do.

N: It's a shit hole.

M: It's basically the taint of Canada. I mean we have shows. There is 100 or 200 kids that show up and they just go nuts. Whether it's

dancing or knowing every single word to every song of each band. It's just this really ....

**You guys are just beating your own boredom.**

M: All we have is a mall and that sucks ass. We have mines. They suck ass obviously. A couple of schools, the movies, and other than that there is the hardcore scene so what are you going to pick out of all of that ?

N: You forgot to mention that there is a big bush party scene.

M: Oh yeah. There is lots of bush parties. They trailblaze about a kilometer into the woods and then there is a big open pit where there is a fire and people get drunk and fight each other.

N: But as far as talking about us is concerned I think people in our bands have been going to out of town shows. We always come to Toronto. We go to Montreal a lot. Since early 2000.

**So you are exposed to a lot of good hardcore.**

N: That's how we found out about bands like that because Sudbury is so far from ....well let's just say Toronto is the next biggest city to Sudbury so people don't usually go out of town too much to shows so people just got used to ....

**....because is it far for people to go from Sudbury to Toronto ....**

N: Like five hours. People just got little bits and pieces of other scenes and things were just all mixed up and because people never really





saw how things were done so .... when I started going to shows the scene in Sudbury ... like I hated it more than anything because honestly it was high school jocks turned emo or whatever and putting on shows where everyone is just drinking and acting retarded like throwing shit. And girls would go to the show because the guys were hot because they were jocks from high school type of thing. And then when we started our band PROVEN like I don't want to make it seem like we are responsible for the scene, but I think it started to show that there was meaning to music. It was not just a thing to go get fucked up by ....  
**You lead by example ... by showing another way.**

N: Yeah.

M: Like Nico said I moved to Sudbury in 2002 and the first day of school I asked someone where are the shows ? They were like 'Oh. You have to go to this place called Gene's Room'. So I went there and I was always into NEGATIVE APPROACH and POISON IDEA and early hardcore bands. Anyway I would go to the shows totally expecting a punk scene and it was like emo, post-hardcore, scream-o and the only people that were into the music were the people that were playing it. Everyone else that was there was there to socialize or try to fuck each other or whatever. I was like 'This is terrible. I hate how this scene is'.

**Yeah because it's no alternative to the shit that you deal with everyday.**

M: And I was just an angst ridden teenager like Nico and everyone else and I met them at the first show and I was like these are the guys that I need to hang out with. The people wearing MINOR THREAT t-shirts with a pair of jeans and ever since we have just been good friends. We listen to what we have always listened to. We try to stay away from trends but just do what we have always done. So I think a couple of years the Sudbury scene sucked and now it is great.

N: The major problem is the bands in Sudbury wanted to do math-core or just really experimental stuff. What you need to do to be a ... I was going to say that there are no good bands that play that style ... but what you need to do .... These bands obviously used to listen to punk .... The earlier stuff ... you learn your base on the simple stuff and then eventually through the years you



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mike on drums and Nico on vocals.

make it to the technical point. But everybody wanted to be at that technical point so bad they didn't know about the earlier shit and that's where everything went wrong.

M: Yeah. They would buy drum sets and a week later they would start a math-core band and then they would play a show and wonder why no one was into it when all they were doing was hitting random notes and just acting completely ridiculous.

N: To be honest, there is still people who don't like our scene. They always judge us. Call us hardcore fags or whatever.

M: I used to be in this punk band and there was this poll on an on-line forum in 2002 and the question was what's the worst band in Sudbury and the band that I was in was the worst band and all the good bands were math-core bands or just really technical D I L L I N G E R ESCAPE PLAN type sounding shit. We were like, if we're the worst band then we will just create a scene of our own then we'll be the best band.

N: And then everyone starts following in from there.

M: A lot of it also has to do with what Nico said about going out of town and seeing these amazing bands play. The first time I saw FUCKED UP was February 2005. It was with

PUNCH IN THE FACE and CAREER SUICIDE and I was like why can't we have something like that ? Why can't we just have the same thing ? Since then I've always been in love with Toronto shows. I mean I saw the MARKED MEN here and they are a really great band as well. It's probably just spawned from a variety of different things. Us needing to do something we're into and seeing something that was totally better than what we had.

**I want to go back to your first ep. Did you guys self-release that ?**

N: No. Radio 81 Records did that.

**Who is Radio 81 ?**

N: Our friend Simon Haddis from Montreal. That was his label's first release. Since then he has put out stuff from the STATUES from Sudbury.

M: CPC GANGBANGS, I think.

**I thought it was a Sudbury label.**

N: No. He just has a strong Sudbury base somehow.

**How did you record the first ep ?**

M: There is this guy we know named Billy. He runs Easter Island studio in Sudbury. You get really really great recordings for dirt cheap. They are among the cheapest recordings you can get in Sudbury. So we paid him like \$300 and we recorded and we got a review in MRR 'they preach about the old days when they just sound like a refurbished old band with good recordings'. And they weren't buying it apparently.

N: They said 'There are some gems on the record, but the production is so clean we're not buying it'. But since then for our two newer records we made it sound a lot choppy. Keep the essence of it.

**I think MRR is where I first read about you. That's why I wrote to try and find out about**



**you. Did you record anything before the ep? Like a demo or anything ?**

M: No.

**So the ep was the first thing. Since you have your new ep out....**

M: That's a bit cleaner in terms of production so we weren't totally taken aback by what the reviewer said. But the newest record coming out on *Radio 81* – "Neon Electric" – Billy from Easter Island recorded and it was produced and mastered by Jay Reatard.

**How did that work out ? How did you get him involved ?**

M: I think Frank takes care of everything as far as contacting people. He's organized the entire tour ....

**And Jay Reatard was totally into that ?**

N: Yeah but we did pay him. He said he had a good time.

M: It's kind of weird because I guess what he usually does is garage rock type of recordings so he said it was refreshing to listen to something other than garage rock.

**And the second ep came out on *Vinyl Addict* out of Sherbrooke. How did that come about?**

N: Last year we did a two week summer tour with a band from Sherbrooke called RADICAL ATTACK. Andrew was the roadie and he put out their LP. When we were on tour he asked us to do a CD and we said we'll keep it in mind and when the time came we asked him and we were going to do it with *Radio 81* at first but he was pretty swamped with stuff so we gave Andrew a call. Everything has worked out really well.

**The RADICAL ATTACK was very good and it looked really good and it sounded good.**

M: I think Mike Bukowski did the art. He has done a lot of hardcore art.

N: It is safe to mention that Andrew is a really nice guy. When we stayed at his place in Sherbrooke he made us breakfast and supper and everything.

M: He bought us all poutine.

**No way !**

M: We got there and we were tired as shit. We were playing a bar show in Sherbrooke with FROM AUTUMN TO ASHES. Actually a couple of guys from FROM AUTUMN TO ASHES bought our t-shirts and we were like 'where the hell did you hear of us ? We're just some shitty punk band'. 'Oh. We heard about you guys from CANCER BATS'. We were like 'What the Fuck?' So then later on we were playing and they were all in the audience and some of the only audiences available.

**Wow. That's nice. Unexpected I bet.**

M: And after that show we went back to Andrew's house and he had four or five poutines lying out there for us.

**So you have a new ep coming out ?**

M: It should be out towards the end of the summer with Simon. **Do you know what it's going to be called ?**

N: "Neon Electric".

**Do you know how many songs are going to be on it ?**

N: Four songs.

**Is it an ep ?**

M: After that we are doing a full length. I don't know who we are going to be doing that with. We are talking to a couple of

people. I think we are weary about doing an LP, but we have so many different versions and colours and releases and screens. The first record which we all ... not that we dislike the record but we've grown over it. We've just gotten tired of it. And I'm sure "I'm Watching You" is going to be the same thing. We're going to try to do an LP.

N: And you should probably expect something a little different. Like still something hardcore, but something that strays from our older stuff.. it'll probably take us forever to actually do it. **You guys have been on a tour across Canada ... like your sort of in the middle of it....**

M: Yeah. We've been made fun of pretty badly.

**Why ? A lot of people don't want to play across Canada. I think it is admirable.**

M: We are slowly becoming one of those people. I think Jonah from CAREER SUICIDE and FUCKED UP said that is one of the most dedicated Canadian tours I have ever seen.

They seem to think we're pretty dumb for it.

**I think it's a good idea.**

N: The guitarist from BRUTAL KNIGHTS started bursting out laughing. 'I was supposed to do that with my old band. We only did 7 days and then we went home.'

**I think it's great what you're doing. When the REGULATIONS did it I thought it was a great idea. And if a band from Sweden can do it why can't a band from Canada do**

**it ?**

M: The REGULATIONS flew from Umea to Victoria and they drove all the way across Canada to St. John's and apparently it was a good show.

**Did you play out in Newfoundland ?**

M: No but we wanted to.

**I heard the scene in St. John's is amazing and we were interviewing a radio DJ from there and he was telling us about the scene and some of the stories just sounded amazing. I wanted to go just based on his stories.**

M: I think George Street and Water Street are probably some of the nicest streets in the world. They are really European-esque and also very excluded. Whatever they can get a hold of they latch on to. I think we are playing Wakaw Saskatchewan and apparently they have never had a punk show. It's kind of like that.

**It's like BLACK FLAG. Breaking new ground. Maybe in five years there will be a scene there.**

M: Maybe the night after we play there will be a scene there.

N: Hopefully our van can make it that far. Right now we have had troubles. The transmission blew. Two grand for that. Tires blew. \$200. Now our battery is not working. We are going back through Sudbury next week so we are going to bring her to a garage to see how she's doing ? Hopefully she makes it there.

M: She's pulling through though. She's got a lot of weight.

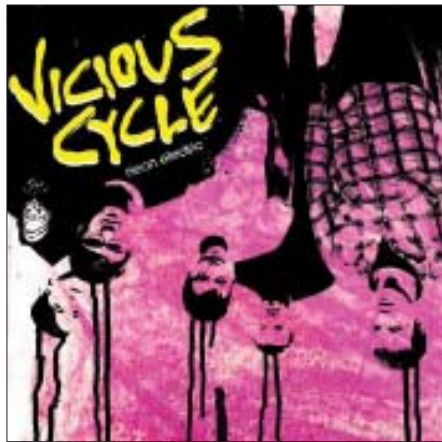
**You've got a big trailer with a lot of equipment. As long as it gets you there. Well I hope you get to the west coast. Beautiful country out there and some great scenes. Victoria has a great scene and the same is true of Vancouver, I hope you get to play them. And all the places in between. Saskatchewan, It's amazing your playing out there. How can people get in touch with the band ?**

M: I hate saying this

but you can hit us up on myspace.

**And if people don't have a myspace ?**

N: There is Radio81records.com and also vinyladdictrecords.com. I'm pretty sure you can e-mail us through that. And if not Frank our bassist does everything business wise so his e-mail is fchartrand@gmail.com.





# ULTRA VIOLENCE RAY

*ULTRA VIOLENCE RAY is Sudbury's answer to the DESCENDENTS. They do a song called "Koffee" for christ sakes so they certainly share the java worship. The band came down to Toronto and we muddled through this session on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. We didn't have a sound engineer but the band was awesome to let us try and get something that we could broadcast. Here is the interview.*

## **Introduce yourselves and tell us what you do in the band ?**

Dave (D): I'm Dave and I play the drums.

Ré (R): I'm Ré Ouellette. I'm the singer.

Alex (A): I'm Alex Champagne and I play bass.

Eric (E): Eric Hoop, geetar.

## **Were any of you in any other bands previous to ULTRA VIOLENCE RAY ?**

E: Yes I was. Quasi Mepris. We never really made it out town. It was just sort of a jazz fusion jam band. I was in it since I was 14 or 15.

A: I played in a band called SUSHI. It was a hardcore band from Sudbury. We broke up around three years ago.

## **How did the band form ?**

E: Me and Alex went to high school together, well wit Réy as well. In college me and Alex started playing together. Dave took over on drums and Réy joined.

## **What was the idea of the band when you first started ? What were you trying to do ?**

A: Basically me and Eric were upset with the weak state of punk rock music and just all these sad bands. It was pretty depressing. It was around for a good while and we missed the old fashioned punk rock and we decided to take charge and just play some good music.



Eric, Rey, and Alex

R: And I think our concept is pretty simple. Fast and simple. That's it.

## **When I hear you guys I think of the DESCENDENTS. Is that conscious ?**

A: Big influence. That's a compliment. Thanks.

## **Where does the name ULTRA VIOLENCE RAY come from ?**

E: We were probably just drunk and stoned.

A: It was very warm inside.

E: Nobody really remembers.

A: It's like it was just said and done.

## **Its got some sci fi connotation to it.**

E: Yeah. We were talking about some lasers and stuff.

R: The government.

A: Star Wars.

E: Giant robots.

## **Is there any significance to the name ?**

R: Just the fact that global warming could lead to everyone being burned up by wonderful ultra violet rays.

## **Now is there a play because your name is Ré as well ?**

R: That's a big coincidence.

E: Yeah. It was UVR before Ré joined and it's actually spelled Rénaud.

## **I was going to ask you who do you consider influences ? Now we were talking initially about the concept of being to start a good hardcore band based on the roots of a hardcore sound. Who would you consider influences ?**

R: I wouldn't say that.

E: We have kind of evolved a little. We sort of got into the older punk as we started playing.

A: Once we were these members it was pretty much the RAMONES, the DESCENDENTS. Those are our influences. That is pretty much what we are going for now.

E: It's a pretty concentrated sound.

A: But at first Eric had a lot of jazz influences with Quasi Mepris and other bands. I pretty much grew up listening to punk so I guess that is a bit of a fusion and we evolved to where we are I guess.

## **Collectively if you were to limit your record collection to five punk releases what would they be ?**

A: "Milo Goes to College". The first RAMONES album. NO FX. Got to put some DKs in there.

E: Some RAMONES. Early RAMONES.

A: We have already said that.

E: Well we'll say it again.

D: The first and second albums.

## **Okay Ré. Do you write most of the lyrics ?**

R: Most of them, but everyone is encouraged



to write.

**What are some of the things that you are singing about ?**

R: Mostly social-political and some love songs too.

**It's a mix of things. What would be your favourite ULTRA VIOLENCE RAY song from a lyrical standpoint and why ?**

R: I love them all.

**I'm sure you do. It is like asking you to single out one of your babies. But maybe there is a song that you kind of nail from a subject matter wise.**

R: Well I usually like singing the political songs because I can put my all into it. So most of the political songs I really enjoy.

**You're not going to single one out**

R: It would have to be a new song in our set which is "I don't care about politics blues".

**And what do you like about it ?**

R: Well I didn't actually write it. Eric wrote it and I think it's very well written and poetic and its pretty heavy as well.

**I'm going to ask the rest of you the same question. What would be your favourite UVR song from a lyrical standpoint and why ?**

A: I think I've got to say "Le Popo". The lyrics are intense and it's about police brutality experienced in the past.

E: I'll cop out and say "I don't care about politics blues" too. Hurray. I like it because it's honest. I was just trying to say that I don't know shit but other people don't know shit either. You should try and learn before you go off. But it's not like discouraging political discussion. It is like encouraging educated political discussion. But I am including myself as well.

A: I guess I will go with "Chason d'amour" because it just feels so nice towards the ladies you know what I mean (*scorn, some laughter*).

**Lame. I noticed you sing a song called "Fashionable Idiots". Is there a story behind that**

**? Is there a connection to the label ?**

E: Did you hear about this story already ? **No I haven't, but I was told to ask about it so I think there is a story behind it.**

E: When we made our first demo we sent out a bunch of copies to labels and most people didn't write back and *Fashionable Idiots* wrote back and said "Fuck you guys. We're not putting out your recording. You're fucking lame."

**Really ?**

A: They didn't like that it wasn't too punk that we sent them a CD

R: They didn't think it was too punk that we



**Alex, Dave, Eric, and Rey.**

sent them a CD because I guess they wanted a crappy cassette.

E: And that was pretty much the only response we got for a long time so it was pretty discouraging.

**So the song is about that ?**

R: Yeah well it goes "Not punk enough. That's what they said. Send us a shitty tape instead. Not punk enough. Got no scene cred. Maybe I should spike my hair and wear leather chaps."

**Do you have any releases out to date ? If so tell us about them ?**

E: We put out our 7" on *Stinktown Records*.

**That's our own label ?**

E: Yeah.

**And have you done anything else on the label ?**

E: We did a repress of the split cassette we did with VICIOUS CYCLE. There is only 200 copies out there. And we did a bunch of demo tapes of the first demo CD. It's actually a full

length but we are calling it our demo.

**Do you have any plans to record ?**

E: Yeah. That set we played today we are recording on the 16<sup>th</sup> and we are talking to a few labels about helping us to release it. I think we are going to release it, but somebody else is going to distribute it.

**Do you think it will be more than one release because there is a lot of songs you played today. I was thinking you could break it up into a couple of 7"s.**

E: Well we were thinking at first of an LP, but I don't think we have enough so maybe a couple of 7"s. Or we might just pick the best ones and use the others for comps.

**So you have been talking to a few labels.**

E: Yeah but I don't think it's kosher to drop names right now ? But we have been dealing with our friends labels.

**Do you have any other plans for the summer?**

E: We want to tour.

**In Canada or the States.**

A: In Canada.

**Out east ? Out west ?**

A: Probably just Ontario out east.

**Is there anything we're missing ? Is there any stories you want to tell ?**

E: Dude we played in Ottawa earlier this week and the lead singer from the SCORPIONS, Klaus Mein showed up with what we think was a photographer and two bodyguards. And he was just rocking big poses in front of kids who didn't know who he was. Everyone was taking pictures and that went on for a while and then it was our turn to go on stage so

one band was tearing off and Klaus Mein gets on stage and hops on the mic and starts commanding the crowd which wasn't very responsive at all. "I want you dead!" and you know repeat. So then we started bringing our gear on stage to give him the hint to fuck off, but he kept going. So then I grabbed one of the mics and said "Ladies and Gentlemen the SCORPIONS" and we clapped him off the stage. And he looked kind of hurt and shit but he was hanging out at the corner of the stage for our entire set. He was goading Alex. He was grabbing at the monitors and grabbing his leg and giving us the finger and shit.

A: He was a big child.

R: He was trying to be a punk or something. Then he starts hitting on young girls and of course one of them had a boyfriend. A fight breaks out and Klaus Mein gets thrown out of the bar. And everyone is happy.

**That's good.**

R: A happy ending.

A: After falling down the stairs.

R: He made a real fool of himself. And then he played the next night for \$100 a ticket. We got a good show for it.

**Tell us about the Sudbury scene. What's Sudbury like ?**

R: Sudbury is pretty amazing. From what I gather there are some other bands in our all ages scene that are really kickin'. There are a lot of good bands right now. Frank is a great all ages promoter and the Townhouse brings in some good bands.

**How many shows ?**

R: Not too many. Maybe only a couple a month. There's not that big of a market for it. For the size of the city though that's a pretty decent scene.

E: There is a strong steady crowd.

**How can people get in touch with the band?**

E: Our my space site.

**Can you give me that ?**

E: [myspace.com/ultraviolenceray](http://myspace.com/ultraviolenceray) or you could e-mail [stinktown@gmail.com](mailto:stinktown@gmail.com).



I know our top 10's appear in print later than what one should expect but time is the enemy and we originally broadcast these lists back in December. So here they are in print.

### Best Hardcore Full Length Releases - International

In laying everything out I realized that there was a lot of material from overseas that warranted it's own section. Too many scenes, too many good releases to ignore.

1. **SUNPOWER** "Too Radical" LP (Peter Bowers) - MINOR THREAT meets the CIRCLE JERKS meets the DKs meets BLACK FLAG. Belgium based and remind me of the REGULATIONS if you are to look for contemporaries.

2. **TOTALITAR** "Vi Ar Eliten" CD (Prank) - This Swedish powerhouse call it a day but what a way to go out.

3. **VALSE TRISTE** "Madon Luku" CD (if Society) - Finnish chaotic NOMEANSNO meets the MINUTEMEN in their early years.

4. **AFFLUENTE** "Libera Fame" CD (S.O.A.) - Powerful, straight forward hardcore with a progressive agenda. Brings to mind INTENSITY. The last record was a covers release where the band covered everyone from 76% UNCERTAIN to UNIFORM CHOICE to BATTALION OF SAINTS.

5. **GIUDA** LP (Agipunk) - Great new Italian hardcore sounding like the SWARM and KVORTERINGEN, but drawing on NEGAZIONE, DEATHSIDE, and ANTI-CIMEX.

6. **PROJECT HOPELESS** "Valkommen..." LP (Self-Released) - Sweden's answer to DEFORMED CONSCIENCE with a self-released scorcher.

7. **WOLFBRIGADE** "Prey to the World" CD (MCR Company) - Kang meisters rip you a new one sounding like POISON IDEA, TRAGEDY, ANTI-CIMEX, TO WHAT END, and SUNDAY MORNING EISNTAINS and with a call to action.

8. **B.U.S.H.** "New American Century" CD (625 Productions) - This release had an earlier ep on it. Brazilian go-core akin to DISCARGA, I SHOT CYRUS, NO VIOLENCE and too many others to list here.

9. **ED** "Nailed to the Board" LP (Agipunk) - This looks like a ménage au quatre of skaters and punks and it sounds fun and it has some cool artwork.

10. **KYKLOOPPIEN SUKUPUUTTO** "Kaikki Yalinnat Jaadytetty" LP (Hate) - As complicated and angry as ever. This is unbelievable. And the gatefold cover is something to behold.

### Best Hardcore Full Length Releases - U.S.

There is always a truckload of amazing stuff coming out of the States. This year was no exception. Here are some of my thoughts. Keep in mind this is only for full length



# 2007 IN REVIEW

releases.

1. **DOUBLE NEGATIVE** "Wonderful and Frightening World of..." CD (No Way) - BAD BRAINS meets DISCHARGE meets the FARTZ with loads of C.O.C. stories and stories about their local scene. Inspiring.

2. **SEVERED HEAD OF STATE** "Power Hazard" 12" (Havoc) - Featuring members of WBTD, TRAGEDY and RESIST, this band is like the epicentre of crust in the U.S. and they deliver. The CD version contains additional 7" material.

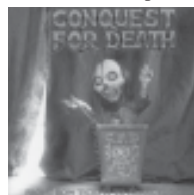
3. **WORLD BURNS TO DEATH** "Totalitarian Sodomy" LP (Hardcore Holocaust) - Everything about this is over the top from the artwork, to their lyrical matter to the music.

They are a modern day MDC.

4. **BORN/DEAD** "The Final Collapse" (Prank) - The concept of collapse wrings through in the apocalyptic sound of BORN/DEAD's latest.

5. **BEHIND ENEMY LINES** "One Nation Under the Iron Fist of God" CD (Profane Existence) - If BORN / DEAD is the soundtrack to the end, BEHIND ENEMY LINES are the brains behind the operation. They never disappoint and always incite.

6. **CONQUEST FOR DEATH** "Front Row Tickets to Armageddon" CD (Wajlemac / Punks Before Profit\$) - Members of WHAT HAPPENS NEXT and ASSFORT doing an ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT thing.



7. **MAGRUDERGRIND** "Rehashed" LP (Punx Before Profit\$) - INFEST meets YACOPSAE meets CRUCIAL UNIT. Give that some thought. Who else could write a song called "Putting Anthrax in the Beertap on Britpop Saturdays".

8. **FOR THE WORSE** "Blood, Guts, Going Nuts" CD (Bridge 9) - Boston smart asses that sound like the CRO MAGS and joke like CHARLES BRONSON.

9. **HIT ME BACK** "Life" CD (Refuse) - 7 SECONDS in delivery with AOD subject matter, making them posi crucial and hilarious in a pop culture way.

10. **BATTLETORN** "Terminal Dawn" LP (Mad at the World) -

### Best Full Length Releases - Canadian

We spend so much time seeking out Canadian hardcore and it deserves it's own unique list, so here are the full lengths that I think deserve your attention.



1. **CAREER SUICIDE** "Attempted Suicide" CD (Deranged) - Never missed a beat. Snotty and energetic. Recruited Brandon from GOVERNMENT WARNING to fill

in on drums for this one.

2. **BRUTAL KNIGHTS** "Feast of Shame" CD (Deranged) - This party band keeps getting better. This is the best thing yet rivaling the band's collective previous projects. ANGRY SAMOANS meets CAREER SUICIDE writing songs like "Vehicle Party" and "Government is Asshole".

Jay Reatard does the production work on this.

3. **THE VAPIDS** "The Point Remains the Same" CD (Self-Released) - Inspired RAMONES meets QUEERS meets SCREECHING WEASEL hardcore. I listened to this for six weeks straight without interruption.

4. **STATUES** "New People Make Us Nervous" 12" (Radio 81) - BUZZCOCKS meets the JAM meets JOE JACKSON and they get double bonus points for being from Sudbury.

5. **THE FALLOUT** "Dismantlement" CD (Insurgence) - THE FALLOUT continue to crank out releases. I think they may have released a cover CD this year which was pretty ace, but this latest is all originals. And a song about our radio show called "Fallout Radio", which was very touching.

6. **BLACK JACKET** "Citizen's Epidemic" CD (Self-Released) - Sons of auto workers? Maybe but they come off as revolutionaries. Self-Released and right on.

7. **COBRA NOIR** "Barricades" CD (Chainsaw Massacre) - Sweeping Portland inspired scream-o to be taken seriously.

8. **TO THE LIONS** CD (Goodfellow) - ex-GRADE and CONFINE. Back to basics metal inspired mosh-core with songs that question the basics of religion.

9. **UNDER PRESSURE** "Come Clean" LP (Yellow Dog) - BLACK FLAG, POISON IDEA, and a burning spirits fire in the belly fuel this foursome from Murder City capital.

10. **ALTERNATE ACTION** "Tough Times" 12" (Self-Released)

**Best Hardcore ep Releases - International**  
So there was as many good eps as there was LPs, both internationally and on the continent. Here is a list of the best international eps from last year.

1. **SHINING** "Word is Fiction" ep (Underground Punk Support) - This awesome Dutch band continues to wreak havoc in a fast thrashy kind of fastcore vein. This ep has 8 songs on it and it never lets up.

2. **JIBARA** "And Now And" ep (HG Fact) - This reminds me of QUILL with insanity and PHC with the affinity towards kid culture.

3. **KIELTOLAKI** "Totaalisen Tuhon Huominen" ep (Combat Rock Industries) - This Finnish band is a throw back to the "Russia Bombs Finland" era of Finnish hardcore. If the music doesn't prove it the cover is a good sign. The band released two eps in 2007. The CRI ep gets the nod because it has four more songs on it. "Maailma Menee Helvettiin" can be found on Moo Cow in the States.

4. **GERIATRIC UNIT** "Nuclear Accidents" ep (Violent Change) - Not only is this some of the

best scene veterans in the UK getting back to it, but they are real blueprint for how hardcore should be played. Members of HERESY and HARD TO SWALLOW wrecking shop.

5. **RAKKAUS** "Kuolevan Maailman Hiljainen Kirus" ep (Barrage of Salt / Tuska ja Akdistus) - This Finnish super group releases their latest ep. More awesome retro sounding punk without wimping out into garage rock.

6. **FATALS** ep (Frachenwerkstatt) - This motor charged hardcore band from Deutschland are a combination of MOTORHEAD and hardcore.

7. **OUT WITH A BANG** "Few Beers Left But Out of Drugs" ep (Criminal I.Q.) - The MINUTEMEN in a battle with CAREER SUICIDE from Italy.

8. **DISCLOSE / FRAMTID** "Chainsaw" ep (Regurgitated Semen) - Awesome Japacore split featuring the undisputed Disclone bands and a Swedish inspired band. Sadly this came out just a month after Kawakami died.

9. **DISKLEMA** ep (Kamaset Levyt) - Despite the Dis in their name these Finns are not a Disclone band, but more of a kang band. Good charging hardcore with heaviness that defies description.

10. **RATS, THE / SHUT THE FUCK UP** split ep (thrashbastard) - Both bands are from Germany. The RATS play a get up go style and SHUT THE FUCK UP have an INFEST influence. Fuckin' Go!

#### Best Hardcore ep Releases - U.S.

In looking at the picks there was so many from the States that I felt it deserved it's own category.

1. **SEX/VID** "Tania" ep (DOM US) - A bulldozer of fury in rapid fire songs to back up the momentum.

2. **RELIGIOUS AS FUCK** ep (Self-Released) - This Portland area band continue to impress with this self-released ep.

3. **TIME TO ESCAPE** ep (Grave Mistake) -

4. **SOCIAL CIRCKLE** "Static Eyes" ep (No Way) - The REGULATIONS with a touch more melody. Good back to basics punk.

5. **BLANK STARE** ep (Refuse) - SBV or UNIFORM CHOICE meets HAYMAKER

6. **GOVERNMENT WARNING**

"Arrested" ep (Grave Mistake) - Can they do no wrong ?

7. **OUT COLD / BILL BONDSMEN** split ep Both bands are raving fast and screaming mad. Possibly the best pairing for a split I have ever heard.

8. **WASTED TIME** "No Shore" ep (Grave Mistake) -

9. **CRUNKY KIDS** "Theories of Hate and Time" ep (Schizophrenic) - This group from Painsville brings what might be the h-100s reincarnate.

10. **INSTANT ASSHOLE** "DUI or Die" ep (Tank Crimes) - The heaviness of BATTALION OF SAINTS with the drive of MDC, and the

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song writing ability of TH'INBRED.

#### Best ep Releases - Canadian

1. **VICIOUS CYCLE** "I'm Watching You" ep (Vinyl Addict Records) - Edge sounding go-core. This was the band's second release and they went on to release a few more before the year was out.



2. **ULTRA VIOLENCE RAY** ep (Stinktown) - DESCENDENTS sounding hardcore right down to the ode for Coffee.

3. **SKITZOS** "Faster! Louder! Better!" ep (Longshot Records) - Young smart asses that sound like an early unpolished version of SCREECHING WEASEL.

4. **CRIMINAL INTENT** ep (Sewercide) - How did a band from Truro come to embody URBAN WASTE ?

5. **SOUND CITY HOOLIGANS / HOLLYWOOD GODS** split ep (Longshot) - KNUCKLEHEAD versus WNH in a split.

6. **ALTERNATE ACTION** "We're Not Like You" ep (Self-Released) - BLITZ meets the EJECTED with the ability to invoke COCK SPARRER.

7. **MARGARET THRASHER**

"Does It Matter ?" ep (Clarence Thomas) - They remind me of the REGULATIONS or the VICIOUS.

8. **WHITE LUNG** "Local Garbage" ep (Hockey Dad) - Part AVENGERS, part GANG OF FOUR. Featuring members of the B-LINES.

9. **DANGERLOVES** ep (Fashionable Idiots) - Members of CAREER SUICIDE, TERMINAL STATE, and URBAN BLIGHT doing some *Dangerhouse / Pebbles* worship.

10. **BAD AMPS** "Two Face" ep (Black Market) - Unmistakable SCREECHING WEASEL meets RAMONES style to this self-release.



*Generation Annihilation filled its Canadian content requirements a good portion of the time in 2007 with the help of these fine releases.*



1. **AFTER THE BOMBS** "Relentless Onslaught" 12" (The Total End) - These Montreal punks formed last year and released this and two 7 inch EP's in 2007. Comprised of ex-HELLBOUND members, this female vocaled thrash would most definitely appeal to fans of NAUSEA and SACRILEGE.

2. **ALTERNATE ACTION** S/T 7" (Longshot) - 2007 also saw the release of the groups "Tough Times" 10". Hailing from Vancouver this release is comprised of more melodic brickwall streetpunk featuring Greg Huff formerly of SUBWAY THUGS, GLORY STOMPERS and the LANCASTERS.

3. **CAREER SUICIDE** "Attempted Suicide" 12" (Deranged) - Playing thrashy spastic old school

hardcore since forming in the early 2000's, "Attempted Suicide" show no signs of this Toronto act slowing down! Lets hope they make it out west again in 2008!

4. **COMPLICATIONS** "Blinded" 7" (Feral Ward) - This Montreal act put out a demo a few years back containing some very AMEBIX inspired music and this is more of the same. The vocals remind me of a very mellow Lemmy from Motorhead. The two songs on this EP make me want more. I hope that a full length is in the works.

5. **THE FALLOUT** "Dismantlement" CD (Insurgence) - I've always liked this Toronto three piece ever since hearing their "Turning Revolution Into Money" release a few years back on *Longshot music*. Two releases later and they are still playing politically charged melodic anthems. Great stuff indeed!

6. **LEGION DCLXVI** "Black Goat Armageddon" LP (Schizophrenic) - While the whole shtick of this Toronto act seems to be on a sarcastic note, the music is on this blue marbled piece of wax is the real deal. Very metallic hardcore in the same category as Swedish act such as SKIT SYSTEM and MARTYDOD.

7. **LIMB FROM LIMB** "Death. Famine. Plague." CD (No Options) - Also on the metal side of the spectrum from this Vancouver four piece. "Death. Famine. Plague." would satisfy those craving a heavy dose of that gloomy thrash that was predominant in the late 80's UK scene found on record labels such as *Earache* and *Peaceville*.

8. **UNDER PRESSURE** "Black Bile" LP (Fashionable Idiots) - After relentless touring and recording this Winnipeg act just never lets up. This is the second UNDER PRESSURE release that came out in 2007. Very pulverizing hardcore in the vein of POISON IDEA.

9. **THE VAPIDS** "The Point Remains The Same" CD (Self-Released) - With the BAD AMPS from Vancouver broken up in 2007, the VAPIDS from Hamilton Ontario could be Canada's answer to the RAMONES or SCREECHING WEASEL for that matter.

10. **WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROES** "Guilty Pleasures" CD (BYO) - This act from Edmonton doesn't play Vancouver every other weekend like they used to. With a step to a bigger label like *BYO*, the HEROES are out bringing their catchy style of punk far and wide. Good for them!

#### Gena's Top Ten

There were too many amazing demos and releases from 2007 to fit onto one list. Paring it down to just ten seems cruel. These are in no particular order, and they all ruled.

#### Demos or Self-Titled releases

1) **COMPLICATIONS** demo - A phenomenal record, pulling a strong post-punk influence, which is evident with the slowed down guitar and harmony on this demo. Vocals 'slightly' reminiscent of DAG NASTY's Dave Smalley with a bleeding throat, but the rest is uncomparable. Pick it up.

2) **EPISODE** s/t 7" (independent) - Four untitled tracks with no apparent 'band members' makes this one of the most sought after releases of the year. A mix of garage, southern hardcore,



scratchy recording and good marketing.

3) **NERVOUS WRECKS** demo - Great pop punk from south of the border, and female fronted. Touches of The **UNDERTONES**, **TRANSPLANTS** (1970's New York) and **BIKINI KILL**, making for catchy songs from a band I cannot wait to hear more from.

4) **REPROBATES** demo - Band name says it all. A brutal 4 song demo with influences like **THE FIX**, **VILE** and **UPRIGHT CITIZENS**. Look for tour dates and an apparent release on *No Way Records* in 2008.

5) **LATINO HEALTH CRISIS** "Serious Mean Face" demo - No doubt one of the most ambitious releases from Toronto this year, with song writing that uses a lot of clever word play ala **NOMEANSNO**. Deserves more than one listen.

6) **CIVIC PROGRESS** demo - **NEGATIVE APPROACH**-ish vocals, and a sound that cuts hardcore punk back down to its basics. No filler content, no sound effects.

7) **HAZARDOUS WASTE** demo - A simplified resemblance to early skate-punk like **JFA**, without the 'locals only' mentality. This is also a band with a gross dissatisfaction for scene politics; they refuse to take themselves too seriously and have a sense of humor which translates into all their songs. Catchy riffs and memorable stage antics to match.

8) **NERVOUS BREAKDOWN** "New Dogs On The Block" demo - A completely weird mix of hardcore punk, synth effects, and odd English translations, this new band from Jakarta comes from a long tradition of wicked Phillipino HC that the West has never heard. Check them out on [myspace \(www.myspace.com/nervousbreakdown2006\)](http://myspace.com/nervousbreakdown2006).

9) **COLA FREAKS** demo - Named after the **LOST KIDS** classic album "Cola Freaks", with an upbeat new wave feel. Apathetic vocals, vacant bass, guitar that makes me want to go surfing. Completely different from anything else done this past year.

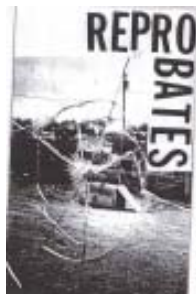
10) **RAH** summer 07 tape demo - Resembles early NYHC straight-edge bands like **YOUTH OF TODAY**. 4 song demo had only 100 copies but well worth the hunt.

*Here are ten releases that came out in 2007 and made the playlist on Generation Annihilation more than once. The show can be heard every Saturday in Vancouver BC from noon to 1PM on 101.9FM CITR. You can listen to the live stream, download podcasts at [www.citr.ca](http://www.citr.ca) and view playlists at [www.streetpunkradio.com](http://www.streetpunkradio.com)*

1. **COCKSPARRER** "Here We Stand" CD (Captrain Oi!) - This one didn't make it onto our 2007 round up show simply due to the fact that I didn't get my hands on this gem until this year. After almost 10 years since **COCKSPARRER**'s last release, we get their best one yet. Unlike **COCKSPARRER** releases of the past, there are absolutely no duds in the bunch.

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The majority of anthems on this release could very well stand the test of time as much as those found on "Shock Troops".



2. **CONTEMPT** "Who Needs Diplomacy?" CD (Active Distribution) - Some more great UK punk from these long running stalwarts. I've heard their sound described as anarcho! Very political lyrics mixed in with a basic early UK punk sound.

3. **CRIMINAL DAMAGE** "No Solution" CD (Feral Ward) - This is the second release from this Portland act. Unlike the majority of other

bands from that rainy city, **CRIMINAL DAMAGE** don't play d-beat style hardcore or take influences from the **WIPERS** and are possibly North America's answer to **BLITZ**.

4. **GERIATRIC UNIT** "Nuclear Accidents" CD (Plastic Bomb Records) - Some excellent thrash provided by this Nottingham act featuring **EXHERESY** members.

5. **MARCHING ORDERS** "Dead End Street" CD (Three Stars) - This is, I believe, the third release from these working class lads from the land down under. More anthemic street punk with a better production this time around.

6. **MOUTH SEWN SHUT** "Doomed Future Today" CD (Rodent Popsicle) - What originally started as a side project of **TOXIC NARCOTIC** has turned into a full time endeavor for this heavy Boston act. They use ska breakdowns in their songs and not in a bad way either.

7. **THE RESTARTS** "Outsider" CD (No Label) - This London trio has been going strong and releasing top notch punk since their formation in 1996. Look for them on tour in the US and Canada this summer.

8. **RIOT CLONE** "Success" LP (Dr. Strange) - They say this is their last ever release. We've all heard that before. On this release, we get fourteen snotty sarcastic punk anthems from this long running UK unit who coined the phrase "There's No Government Like No Government".

9. **SUB HUMANS** "Internal Riot" LP (Bluurg) - Its hard to believe that they've been back together longer than when they were around the first time around. Although this releases is nowhere near as influential or inspiring as LP's such as "The Day

The Country", "Worlds Apart" or any of the original material recorded between 81-86 it's still pretty good. Hopefully they wont make us wait another 20 some odd years for their next full length.

10. **THE WRETCHED ONES** "Make It Happen" CD (Headache) - The follow up to 1999's "We Don't Belong To Nobody" release contains more rocking gruff vocaled punk from these New Jersey street punk brutes.

## Gena's Top Ten Releases (Canadian and/or International- 7" or 12")

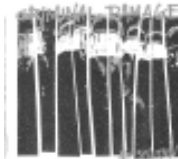
1) **THE BOMBETTES** "What's Cooking, Good Looking?" 7" (NY Vag) - Swedish female punk quintet, catchy bass lines similar to the **VICIOUS**. Pure pop that's perfect for a break-up.

2) **GOVERNMENT WARNING** "Arrested" 7" (Grave Mistake) - Another classic GW release to add to the discography. Debatably better than 'No Moderation', depending on who you talk too.

3) **PRESS GANG** s/t ep (Hardware Records) - Someone get this band over here. This self-titled release from Germany's **PRESS GANG** rages, sitting perfectly on the fence between punk and hardcore. Strong bass lines play the part of a second guitar. Sloppy riffs, similar to **BRUTAL KNIGHTS**, with German aggression. Check them out ([www.myspace.com/pressgangpunks](http://www.myspace.com/pressgangpunks)).

4) **LEGION 666** "Black Goat Armageddon" LP (Schizophrenic) - Thrash metal at its best. Hands down my favorite release of the year, punk or not.

5) **THE DISHRAGS** "There's No Dee-Dee" singles collection reissue CD compilation (Jem Records) - The all female punk-quartet that used to tour with **DOA** in the early days. If you (like me) have never been able to find their releases on vinyl, tape, or on bootleg, this CD is a must have.



6) **TERVEET KADET** "TKII" EP 7" reissue - From Finland, **TERVEET KADET** (or "Healthy Hands" in English) bring comparisons to bands such as **DISCHARGE**. This one-sided EP reissue comes with the same wicked collage work as the original, and you won't have to pay \$1500 on ebay for it.

7) **CRIMINAL DAMAGE** "No Solution" LP (Feral Ward) - Picking up where their self titled LP left off. Admittedly, I was unsure about this album at first. Yet, the songwriting is stronger than their debut, the vocals sound more confident, and the instruments are tighter. Definitely have proven themselves as heavyweights to watch for.

8) **WASTE MANAGEMENT** "Get Your Mind Right" ep (Painkiller) - Though a bit standard lyrically, **WASTE MANAGEMENT** have a fast sound that fans of the **Inmates** would enjoy. Heavy on guitar and drums.

9) **BATTLETORN** "Terminal Dawn" (Mad At The World) - **BATTLETORN** is now down to two members, but the quality or intensity of their songs doesn't waver from previous releases. Thrash Metal mixed with hardcore in the best possible way.

10) **PISSED JEANS** "Hope For Men" (Sub Pop) - Methodical, droning, hardcore noise for the punk rock avant-garde audiophile. Awesome.

## Best of the Killed by Death scene

These would be considered your more classic punk and hardcore bands. *Captain Oi!* dominates this list with some classics.

1. **FREEZE, THE** "Guilty Face" ep

(Schizophrenic) - Hamilton label breathes new life into the FREEZE's classics.

2. **CHANNEL 3** "I've Got a Gun / After the Lights Go Out" CD (Captain Oi!) - I grew up on this band and had forgotten how great they were. The band's first two releases on one format is too good to be passed up. Think CIRCLE JERKS meets YOUTH BRIGADE meets 999 with the Jay from the STEPMOTHERS doing the production work.

3. **DISCHARGE** "Why" CD (Captain Oi!) - Part of a series of DISCHARGE re-issues with this being my favourite because of its raw sound. This is DISCHARGE's earliest recording and represents the band in their primal punk state before they dabbled with metal.

4. **TERVEET KADET** "Aareton Propoganda" LP (Propaganda) - Classic Finnish label comes back to life with this re-release of Finland's best known hardcore band pre-RATTUS.

5. **KORO** "Speed Kills" LP (Sorry State) - This has been bootlegged countless times in the past few years as one of the Reagan era greats. But Sorry State gives it the respect it deserves.

6. **UK SUBS** "Another Kind of Blues" CD (Captain Oi!) - First off this is the release that spawned "Stranglehold". It was one of the first punk chart busters. "B.I.C.", "Telephone Numbers", and "I Live in a Car" are just but a few on here and there are extra singles collected for this re-issue. This is one of those pillars of the punk scene.

7. **DOA** "Bloodied But Unbowed: The Damage to Date 1978-83" CD (Sudden Death) - This is my favourite collection of DOA's. I have been waiting and lobbying for this for years. Thank you. Now I don't have to drive to North Bay to pay time with this release.

8. **LURKERS, THE** "Fulham Fallout" CD (Captain Oi!) - A band that sounds like the RAMONES, the MISFITS, SHAM 69, and the VIBRATORS and writing as many goos songs as that lot while staying under the radar for so many years. This is a gem.

9. **TOY DOLLS** "Dig That Groove Baby" CD (Captain Oi!) - The TOY DOLLS had loads of releases in their career. *Captain Oi!* gets to their early releases and this would be one I would pick if I had to. SNUFF owes this band their career. "Cheerio & Toodle Pip".

10. **VARUKERS, THE** "Still Bollocks But Still Here" CD (Captain Oi!) - The VARUKERS had three re-issues last year that I knew about. The band knows how to write a song that sticks in your head for a few decades.

Some runners up include the BUSINESS's come back album "The Truth, the whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth" CD, the DICKIES first LP "Dawn of the Dickies" and the RIBZY collection "'81-'85 Recordings" CD.

**Best of Re-issues - Later Years**

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Now there was an insane amount of re-issues last year. So I made a separate list of bands not in the first couple of waves of punk.

1. **ACCUSED, THE** "Oh Martha" LP (Candor) - New material that sounds as righteous as the band's past glories. The first ep is re-recorded at the end and not listed as a hidden bonus.

2. **DISKONTO** "Diskontography" CD (Crimes Against Humanity) - My favourite Swedish hardcore band. This is almost everything.

3. **TALK IS POISON** "Condensed Humanity: The Prank eps" LP (Prank) - So it's only fitting that Prank collects all the bands mini releases into one full length. Stellar.

4. **DRILLER KILLER** "Total Fuckin' Brutalized" CD (Crimes Against Humanity) - The first in a series of re-issues by this band that featured members of ANTI-CIMEX, MODERAT LIKVIDATION, BLACK UNIFORMS, the PERUKERS, and ATOMVINTER. This is the Swedish band that defined heavy. And they did so while retaining their political charged anarchist ideals.

5. **DEADFALL** "Mass Destruction" CD (Six Weeks) - Long overdue ep discography playing hardcore that sounds like SUICIDAL TENDENCIES meets TEAR IT UP meets the TEEN IDLES.

6. **CHRIST ON PARADE** "Sounds of Nature" LP (Prank) - This Bay Area band was notorious in their day as FINAL CONFLICT junior and this was for the release they were best known for.

7. **HICKOIDS, THE** "Corn Demon" CD (Saustex) - Essentially a self-release of one of the best country hardcore fusion bands ever to develop the cowpunk genre. Bonuses include covers of the TV shows "Hee Haw" and "Bonanza", the EAGLES, and "Kung Fu Fighting".

8. **MISGUIDED** "Fuggets" CD (Mad at the World) - Little known NYC HC band.

9. **ARGUE DAMNATION** "Re-Cycle Old Pure Hardcore Punk Scum 1994-2003" CD (MCR Company) - Stripped down primal sounding punk a la CRASS reminding me of REALITY CRISIS meets FLUX OF PINK INDIANS.

10. **L.S.D.** LP (Schizophrenic) - Little known Japanese band gets a discography treatment with rare and obscure recorded and live material.

**Aaron Brown's Top 10 re-issues**

1. **CHELSEA** "Faster, Cheaper And Better Looking" CD (TKO) - This release originally

came out on *Captain Oi!* in 2005. 2007 saw the release of it this side of the pond with two bonus tracks, one being a cover of IGGY POP's "Home". This is the back to basics punk that England's CHELSEA are known for with three quarters of the original line along with Tony Barber from the BUZZCOCKS on bass.

2. **CHRIST ON PARADE** "Sounds Of Nature" LP (Prank) - Here is a re-issue of the 1985 Pusmort classic, which makes up side one of the release. Side two contains the "Isn't life A Dream" 7" along with tracks from the "Skate Rock Volume 3" cassette tape and a never heard before version of "The American Me" by the AVENGERS. The lyric sheet is a three page glossy spread containing many obscure photos from back in the day.

3. **THE BUSINESS** "Keep The Faith" CD (Captain Oi!) - This comeback album from these British Oi! Godfathers was originally released in 1994 and resurrected last year.

4. **DISCHARGE** "Why" CD (Captain Oi!) - Another fine re-issue on *Captain Oi!* originally released in 1981, "Why" laid down the foundations of what would become d-beat hardcore style. Fourteen bonus tracks are included here, which contain some EP tracks along with some live from "The Apocalypse Now" tour way back when.

5. **DOA** "Punk Rock Singles" CD (Sudden Death) - Containing DOA singles from the "Disco Sucks" 7" in 1978 right up until "Nervous Breakdown" in 1999 along with some informative liner notes about each release.

6. **GBH** "Race Against Time: The Clay Years" CD (Sanctuary) - This three CD box set contains all the essentials from Birmingham's GBH spanning from 1980-1984 on *Clay records* and includes a fourteen song live set.

7. **MOB 47** S/T 7" (Havoc) - A classic Finnish hardcore piece resurrected from 1984 and at a very affordable price.

8. **TALK IS POISON** "Condensed Humanity" LP (Prank) - I missed this Bay Area act when they were around in the late 90's. This release compiles their three EP's.

9. **V/A** "All Your Ears Can Hear" CD ([www.allyouears.canhear.com](http://www.allyouears.canhear.com)) - A double CD set of Victoria punk, hardcore and experimental noise recorded from 1978 - 1984 totaling

79 tracks. Included is a glossy booklet chocked with photos and gig flyers from the era.

10. **V/A** "Network Of Friends" 2 X LP (Plastic Bomb) - This international compilation features acts from America, Austria, Australia, Canada, Germany, UK, Italy, Holland, Norway and Japan from the formative hardcore years from the early to mid 80's.





## REVIEWS

Reviewers are: Aaron Brown (AB), and Stephe Perry (SP)

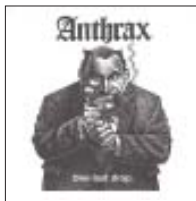
### Agrotoxico "Libertacao" CD

This is AGROTOXICO's fifth full length. It is self-released and continues along the same ripping path as their previous releases. Straight forward hardcore with political lyrics. They remind me of AFFLUENTE from Italy or INTENSITY from Sweden as the band marries the righteous hardcore with right on lyrics. And the band is connected getting folks from OHLO SECO, ACAO DIRETA, and LOBOTOMIA to sing on different songs on this release. They sound like they belong to the same scene as DISCARGA and SICK TERROR with the emphasis on a straight forward hardcore sound. (Red Star Recordings / Caixa Postal 4861 / 01061-970 / São Paulo SP / Brazil / [www.redstar77.com](http://www.redstar77.com)) - SP



### Anthrax "One Last Drop" CD

This is an early UK anarcho inspired punk band. "One Last Drop" is a collection of everything the band recorded. Essentially it's a couple of demos and a couple of eps. This is good timing given all the coverage happening on this scene based on those *Overground* comps. It's good to see other folks doing some of the unearthing. In this case I think the actual band is behind the release. Consequently the cover artwork makes up a lengthy fold up cover. Unfortunately the band's story and consequent context to this scene are absent. I guess they assume you can get that off the band's website, but it makes less of a complete package. The band has elements of CRASS, CONFLICT, and KILLING JOKE to their sound. It's raving mad and targets all the right enemies of capital, vivisection, exploitation, and war. This would go along well with the Lance Hahn pieces on the anarchist scene that has been appearing in MRR. (<http://anthraxukofficial.com>) - SP



### Balzac "Deep Blue: Chaos from Darkism" CD

Japan's long standing answer to the MISFITS and they have the merchandising to prove it. They also have the chops. And they haven't lost it over the years. I have lost count with what numbered release this is and to be honest I think BALZAC has as many official releases as the MISFITS have bootlegs. BALZAC put out. And they put out material that is good. "Deep Blue" has the melody and whoas of "Walk Among Us". They do a song called "Horrorrock" which is like a dedication to the style of music they do. This release also sees a cover of BOWIE's "Ziggy Stardust", which doesn't really add to the original but would be fun to hear live. BALZAC don't really embrace b-culture the way the MISFITS did you know with references to things like Plan 9 and Ruby Records, but they do hold up an admiration for the MISFITS unlike any band I know. For MISFITS fans jonesin for material that doesn't suck as bad as SAMHAIN or DANZIG, BALZAC is the answer. (Misfits Records / P.O. Box 2043 , Radio City Station / NY, NY / 10101-2043 / USA / [www.misfitsrecords.com](http://www.misfitsrecords.com)) - SP



### Bandanos "We Crush your Mind with The Thrash Inside" CD

A lot of Brazilian hardcore bands already have metal influences in their sound. I think it is the influence that RATOS DE PORAO continues to have on this scene today. Their music is hardcore but there is loads of metal in it. At least it's heavy enough to attract folks from both scenes. So recently you have seen bands that have gotten heavy with their current sound. Take I SHOT CYRUS for instance. There's a band that can crank out some



fastcore but also can crush you with heaviness. But I don't think I have seen a Brazilian band go after a retro crossover sound. It seems odd because the scenes in Brazil are huge. But along comes BANDANOS decked out in their SUICIDAL looking bandanas and their riff riding hardcore take elements of the ACCUSED and ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT to dish out some pretty ripping crossover. They adorn the crossover bands of EXCEL and NUCLEAR ASSAULT and they thank their contemporaries in both hardcore and metal scenes. BANDANOS are the bridge between the two scenes. Skateboarding crossover thrash-a-mania. (625 Productions / [www.625thrash.com](http://www.625thrash.com) // (Peculio Discos / CX. Postal #393 / Santos SP / 11001-970 / Brazil / [www.peculiodiscos.com.br](http://www.peculiodiscos.com.br)) - SP

### Clown "Livestock World" CD

This looks to be a new band from Nagoya City. They have a split CD a demo, and a comp appearance as far as previous recordings go. And in just listening to the music that feels like a heavier hardcore sound borrowing from the ACCUSED and MOTORHEAD. But in reading the lyrics they seem to be pre-occupied with gang life, which makes me think of bikers meets AF in the vein of SLANG. It's like crossover meets gangsta rock. Looking for other clues about the band the singer sports a mullet comb back and the band also has a teddy boy and a Mohican in the line up. You know something for everyone in a boy band gimmicky sort of way. The band thanks a wide variety of Japanese hardcore bands so I can't really pin them down, but the website also sports brass knuckles. It's harder going punk with emphasis on the rock side of things. SLANG meets the ACCUSED. Not bad, but I'm not sure I want to cross these cats if their gang anthems are legit. (MCR Company / 157 Kamiagu Maizurur / Kyoto 824-0913 / Japan / <http://www.dance.ne.jp/~mcr/>) - SP



### Cock Sparrer "Here We Stand" CD

Who are these geezers wearing matching golf shirts posing in a back alley. Don't let the adage judge a CD by it's cover be your guide. This is one of these return to form releases that catches you off guard. The songs are fast. They are tuneful. They are gritty. They are class conscious. And there is some bearing down on the D.I.Y. survival ethics of punk behind this release. The music is a bit bigger than what I am used to, but the gang sing-a-longs and the melody seems to match the production. This reminds me of recent releases by SLF and PARTISANS. The band sounds more like SLF these days, but they also remind me of the BUSINESS' "Keep the Faith" release, which was like a comeback record. You see it more and more these days with bands like POINTED STICKS. This is certainly no exercise in cashing in filthy lucre style. This is the original yobs tending to the flock making relevant and must have material. Raise a pint glass to the lads and to "Here We Stand" for writing songs like "Spirit in '76" in 2007 to remind us why we got into this thing in the first place. (Captain Oi! / P.O. Box 501 / High Wycombe, Bucks / HP10 8QA / UK / [www.captainoi.com](http://www.captainoi.com)) - SP



### D.F.C. / Presto ? "Inferno na Terra" CD

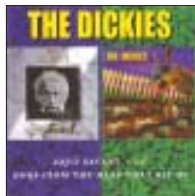
D.F.C. are a crossover sounding band, but like the new generation of crossover bands they play ripping fast. It's not just all about the heavy. They remind me of I SHOT CYRUS or R.D.P. And SICK TERROR in a tug-o-war contest. Seriously, this is some of the best crossover I have heard. They blow their American counterparts out of the water. But I'm sure it's living in Sao Paulo that gives them all the resolve to play so over the top in terms of intensity. PRESTO ? are also from the same teaming metropolis and play a version influenced a little more by grind. They certainly try and play faster incorporating blast beats in



places, but for the most part this too is crossover. R.D.P. continues to leave their mark on the contemporary crop of hardcore coming out of this region. But so does the ACCUSED and VEMOM and D.R.I. and SEPULTURA. This split would make a great tag team partner as they are fairly evenly matched. (Peculio Discos / CX. Postal #393 / Santos SP / 11001-970 / Brazil / [www.peculiodiscos.com.br](http://www.peculiodiscos.com.br)) - SP

### Dickies, The "Idjit Savant and Dogs From the Hare that Bit Us" CD

Two DICKIES for the price of one. Or two and a half if you include the "Roadkill" 7". This could have also been called the *Triple X* years, as this is the stuff that Mike Gitter put out. It is superbly written and is like listening to punk prog rock but with an obnoxious sense of humour. "Toxic Avenger" may seem like the single off "Idjit Savant". In fact, it had been six years since "Second Coming" had come out and there was a couple of singles in between releases, which are featured on the release. Songs like "Just say Yes" and "Roadkill" are natural stand outs, but hidden gems include "Zeppelina", "Elevator", "Make it So", "I'm on Crack, and "Oh Boy". I have to say that although I may not be a huge fan of the punk rock opera style of the DICKIES, "Idjit Savant" has enough zany punk wit to have won me over. And given that I was not such a huge fan of "Second Coming" - "Idjit Savant" is loaded with great songs. The song "House of Raoul" sounds like a MADNESS outtake and could have been the inspiration for "Our House". It's possible because "Oh Boy" is rumoured to have been written for the RAMONES, so maybe the DICKIES were writers for hire. The first half of this disc is really good. The second half is a covers record called "Dogs From the Hare that Bit Us". And you would think that a covers record is a no brainer. Everyone loves hearing punk renditions of songs or even covers of punk favs. And given that the DICKIES have such a wild imagination and go the extra mile to carry out a prank you figured this would be extra good. Not so. The only song I enjoyed is the old motown favourite "Nobody But Me". The rest is a write off. Too bad because there is a cover of the WEIRDOS and the KNACK here. The DICKIES are uniquely poised to do covers of prog rock bands like URIAH HEEP and IRON BUTTERFLY but these bands suck to begin with so it is difficult to dress crap up. Regardless "Idjit Savant" has enough good stuff to pick this up for. (Captain Oi! / P.O. Box 501 / High Wycombe, Bucks / HP10 8QA / UK / [www.captainoi.com](http://www.captainoi.com)) - SP



### Everything Falls Apart "Tension" ep

This is EFA's second release. I like it even better than the first. It's got more CAREER SUICIDE snottiness to it with a NO SLOGAN retro punk beat. This was recorded almost a year ago, but my records are a mess and I just found it. And can I ever relate to the cover art. This is hands down my favourite release out of the AOTU singles series. (Art of the Underground / P.O. Box 250 / Buffalo, NY / 14205 / USA / [www.artoftheunderground.com](http://www.artoftheunderground.com)) - SP



### Eviction Party / Leper split CD

EVICITION PARTY sound like Woody Guthrie meets the MINUTEMEN. There are elements of folk combined with the chaotic fusion of whatever it was that the MINUTEMEN did in terms of punk. Think RIVETHEAD and Tom Waits as a band. LEPER hail from the left coast. Vancouver Island's capital more specifically. This two piece make up for able bodies playing a metallic inspired go-core. It has elements of blast beat speed, elements of Grind (ISKRA), elements of metal (LIMB FROM LIMB), and elements of experimentalism. In fact they bust out into some reggae on the song "Creep Anthem". That's when they start to sound like MOUTH SEWN SHUT instead of IRON LUNG. (Sharpie Fumes Collective / P.O. Box 31224 / Halifax, NS / B3K 5Y1 / Canada // Creep c/o Snuggle House / 617 Manchester Road / Victoria, BC / V8T 2N9 / Canada) - SP

### Guided Cradle "You Will Not Survive" CD

This is insanely good Swedish crust in leagues with some of the kang meisters. Channel the spirits of WOLFBRIGADE and DRILLER KILLER. It's a blending of some POISON DIEA sound with black metal. Extremely fast and well played hardcore with some heaviness thrown in be it dueling guitar solos, chugging riff riding or barbarian charicatures that grace the cover. The thing is these guys are from the Czech Republic and not some isolated Nordic peninsula, which I find further testament to an unsung scene that bands like SEE YOU IN HELL have paved the way for. (Insane Society Records / P.O. Box 18 / 504 01 Novy Bydzov / Czech Republic / [www.insanesociety.net](http://www.insanesociety.net)) - SP



### Last Resort "A Way of Life: Skinhead Anthems" CD

If I'm not mistaken this was *Captain Oi!*'s first release. LAST RESORT are well known among skinhead circles, but I'm not sure this is the band's best release. Certainly the opening song is played with loads of psychedelic wanking that makes one wonder is someone played a joke and slipped in some hippy shit into the digipack at the pressing plant. This is all emblazend with the union jack, but this sort of nationalism comes with that scene. The first song is an anomaly and the music does get better. The have a stong class undertone in songs like "We Rule OK". "Resort Boot Boys" shows some humour with the guys talking about how they hang out getting ready for the football match. Songs like "Changing" capture the animosity that existed back in the day between punks and skins. I'm not a huge fan of this as I grew up on the punk side of the fence. If I wanted to listen to skinhead music I'd probably pick up the BUSINESS or the 4 SKINS or ANGELIC UPSTARTS, but LAST RESORT is an honest look at the hatred and violence and patriotism that exists in the scene. Doesn't mean I support it, but it is an accurate picture of skinhead life, which is what the title promised. (Captain Oi! / P.O. Box 501 / High Wycombe, Bucks / HP10 8QA / UK / [www.captainoi.com](http://www.captainoi.com)) - SP



### Limb from Limb "Death. Famine. Plague." CD

LIMB FROM LIMB write some evil sounding doom crust. Fuelled by equal parts of VENOM and ZOE the band pummels eight new tracks into your head. I think this is the band's first full length but the production suggests that they are about sounding heavy and evil. LIMB FROM LIMB sound like a lot of the bands out of the Osaka crust scene, particularly the newer more metallic ones. ZOE comes to mind as does EFFIGY, but there is also some ringing out of the Portland crust scene present. (No Options Records / P.O. Box 22285 / Oakland, CA / 94623 / USA) - SP



### Noise A-Go-Go "Rock 'n' Noise" Grind 'n' Roll" CD

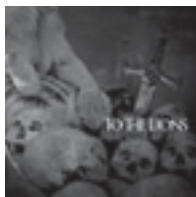
I think the title tries to summarize the band's parts. There are elements of rock and garage and there are elements of noise and grind. The guitar has that fuzzed out 60's distortion, but plays some good raw punk. The vocalist has a throaty choked out delivery common in crust bands. And the pace of the songs incorporate both rock and grind speeds and parts in their songs. It's a bit odd to listen to and may come off as a bit unpractised but I think it has more to do with the rough and ready sound of the r'n'r style. (HG Fact / [www.interq.or.jp/japan/hgfact/](http://www.interq.or.jp/japan/hgfact/)) - SP





### To the Lions "Baptism of Fire" CD

This is TO THE LIONS first official release. Mind you the demo was pretty stellar, but this outdoes the demo. "Baptism of Fire" is a lot heavier and much more crushing. It's got a heavy mosh groove and continues to be influenced by basic metal in the way that mosh based hardcore is. You know the basics of METALLICA as a underpinning to sounding heavy. The band is made up of former members of CONFINED and GRADE. I really hear the CONFINED sound which is odd because the only member from CONFINED is the non-musician. But that's just the way it sounds. Like a heavier sounding version of CONFINED. This is the kind of stuff that *Rivalry Records* and *Bridge Nine* drool over. Except the lyrics are far more challenging than your average straight edge band taking shots mostly at religion and faith. Now I should state that TO THE LIONS are not a straight edge band, they just come from that scene. (Goodfellow Records / 22 Wilson Street / Hamilton, ON / L8R 1C5 / Canada / [www.goodfellowrecords.com](http://www.goodfellowrecords.com)) - SP



### Varukers, the "Punk singles Collection: 1981-1985" CD

The VARUKERS are one of those bands that are punk rock pillars. They are a band that many folks first heard or gravitated towards. They certainly grace many a leather jacket. And rightly so. The band could be seen as up there for the early U.K. hardcore bands in writing memorable anthems. They were certainly as good as the EXPLOITED and the ABRASIVE WHEELS. Songs like "Soldier Boy" were on par with "Army Life" or "the Winner". But the band continued to write anthems found on their *Riot City* eps. "All Systems Fail", "Another Religion, Another War", "The Last War", "No Masters, No Slaves", and the list goes on. I think as the VARUKERS got on they started to adopt more of a d-beat into their raw early UK hardcore sound. They kind of reminded me of a blend between D-beat and oi. There's d-beat, three chord repetition and haikus. On the oi side, there's gang choruses, three chord repetition, and an urgent call to action in the lyrics. I'm sure the d-beat influence was helped along by some line up changes. As a result the VARUKERS became known as a band of substance, you know less of a joke than the EXPLOITED. This CD collects three *Riot City* eps, the rawer early eps, and the "Massacred Millions" 12" that came out on *Rot*. Sadly this collection lacks the historical liner notes that make the *Captain Oi!* releases really worth their weight in salt. Nonetheless this is an excellent VARUKERS primer. (Anagram Records / [www.cherryred.co.uk](http://www.cherryred.co.uk)) - SP



### Various Artists "I Can Only See a Better World Built on the Ashes of this one!" CD

This is subtitled "Your soundtrack on the Road to Hell". It is more like a catalogue of the current crust and peace punk scene. This collection of material functions in part like a sampler. A lot of these bands have been released by *Profane* or have appeared in the pages of the zine. But having said this, the comp shouldn't be dismissed as promo crap. Au contraire, the folks have assembled one top notch and diverse mixed tape, from the get up and go side there is MURDER DISCO EXPERIENCE and MIGRA VIOLENTA to the party side of the COOTERS and IMPERIAL LEATHER to the raging crusty peace punk of BEHIND ENEMY LINES and EXTINCTION OF MANKIND. In fact, this is pretty fuckin' amazing for the state of comps these days. You can only get this by picking up the double issue of the zine #52/52. (Profane Existence / P.O. Box 18051 / Minneapolis, MN / 55418 / USA / [www.profaneexistence.com](http://www.profaneexistence.com)) - SP



## DEMO FEATURE

### Dead Dogs demo - featured on the November 18<sup>th</sup> program

This four piece from Winnipeg are the latest in great bands to come from Murder capital. The band has an anarchist perspective and sounds like ARTIMUS PYLE in terms of a dynamic crust sound. (deaddogs@riseup.net) -SP



### Screwed Up Flyer demo - featured on the December 2<sup>nd</sup> program

This new band are from the U.K. and were formed out of the break ups of PILGER and INTENT. SCREWED UP FLYER remind me of GO in their ability to produce straight forward no nonsense hardcore. This gives one the chance to reflect on the message. It's not unlike their previous outings and I was a fan of both. ([www.myspace.com/screwedupflyer](http://www.myspace.com/screwedupflyer)) - SP



### Sum Fux demo - featured on the December 9<sup>th</sup> program

This Buffalo based band embody the get up and go sound of the scene. They have a wreckless side that reminds me of WARSQUAD, and the bass sometimes resembles Mike Dean's bassline in "Negative Outlook". Yet another great example of these hardcore fusion bands. ([www.myspace.com/somefucks](http://www.myspace.com/somefucks)) - SP

### The Cummiess demo - featured on the December 16<sup>th</sup> program

This Italian garage punk band credits bands like the RIP OFFS, the RAMONES, SCREECHING WEASEL, and other punk bands on the melodic spectrum of punk. Although the band doesn't sound like direct knock offs of the aforementioned the band does have the propensity for playing melodic garage punk with melody. (Mattia Binno / Via Borgetto 181 / 29100 Piacenza / Italy / [www.myspace.com/thecummiessuck](http://www.myspace.com/thecummiessuck)) - SP

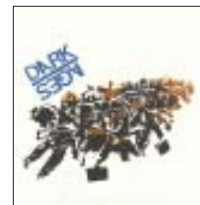
### Der Todesking demo - featured on the January 20<sup>th</sup> program

This is a rough sounding punk band inspired heavily by the "My War" / "Slip It In" era of BLACK FLAG. DER TODESKING have Ginn's guitar sound down. And they even do a song about rats which makes the connection even more apparent. The singer sounds more like he belongs in RKL but that doesn't adversely effect the sound just give it something extra so that you don't start thinking that this is BL'AST junior. DER TODESKING honour more of the FLAG sound then develop it. ([myspace.com/dertodeskingkc](http://myspace.com/dertodeskingkc)) - SP



### Dark Ages demo - featured on the January 27<sup>th</sup> program

From Kansas City this four piece kick out a rough and tumble sounding brand of garage-core. They bring to mind band's like DEAN DIRG in terms of intensity. They remind me a bit of ACID REFLUX in terms of wrecklessness. In terms of sound the band draws from hardcore and punk references over the histories. In "I Can't Have Any Fun" the guitarist busts out some chaotic chord signatures a la Greg Ginn of the early BLACK FLAG era. But if listening to the band I hear more of a California sound. Yeah I know BLACK FLAG were from California, but they didn't have the sound the way the VANDALS and CHANNEL 3 did. DARK AGES has that too. (300 N. Brighton avenue / Kansas City, M) / 64123 / USA / [www.myspace.com/darkageskc](http://www.myspace.com/darkageskc)) - SP



## SHOW REVIEW by Alan O'Connor

### Zegota and Pirate's Law, New Year's Eve at the Trumbullplex, 4208 Trumbull Ave, Detroit.

It was great to be back the Trumbull house and theater in Detroit. In the 1990s there was a lot of back and forth between Detroit and Toronto, but today we've gotten out of the habit of making the four-hour drive to see bands at this amazing space. The hassle of border-crossing since 2001 hasn't helped, but you mostly did get a cross-examination. Other times they'd size up a bunch of crazy punk kids, ask in a bossy tone for everybody's id and then wave the car through with a disapproving look.

And the news about the old gang. Long since replaced three or four times over by new generations of kids living in the two huge old houses. Hilary has a baby now, and Will is at law school. Somehow I'm not surprised, but the world needs more anarchist lawyers. John was connecting make-shift DJ equipment for the party after the bands. The theater as always was freezing and I remembered cold nights with hardcore kids sleeping all over the floor. The one toilet was fairly clean and kinda worked.

The show was organized by Music for Social Change Not Profit. A benefit for the Trumbull with a sliding scale \$6 to \$10. Bring your dancing shoes and sprits. Which people took literally and I hate to think of the Jack Daniels' hangovers in Detroit the next day.

Pirate Law are the house band. A good fast hardcore band with an amazing drumkit. Nothing matches and everything covered in stickers, from SPAZZ to end racism. The drummer said he's been offered \$1,000 for the antique snare, but he likes the sound. He sat on an old metal office chair and sounded none the worse. A new member was introduced, another dropout from the University of Michigan, political science. An excellent and popular local band, the salt and pepper of the punk scene everywhere. A friendly, push-and-pull pit with crusty kids that reminded me of the scene in Mexico, and anarcho kids also in black



from head to toe, but slightly less scruffy, more political patches and without the studded jacket.

ZEGOTA also played on the floor. It was a comfortable crowd

so everyone could see. Jon the guitarist shamelessly changed into his playing clothes in front of everyone and for a wonderful



moment I thought he was going to play in his underwear. I'd just interviewed the band for a new book, relaxed after the promoter brought a hot vegan meal in aluminum containers. They travel with a small book-table, \$8 dollar t-shirts and a few of their records. ZEGOTA on the poster are described as from the ashes of punk. Fast drumming, elaborate parts, sometimes slow. A serious band, though they held everyone's attention. Intensity rather than a party. The song "I never worked. I slept that day" from the Reclaim! album (it's actually called "Struck By The Wild") is the closest to an anthem. Not a Jack Daniels band at all, more like a serious wine for the night it was.

For info on future shows e-mail [trumbullplex@yahoo.com](mailto:trumbullplex@yahoo.com) or [myspace.com/trumbullplex](http://myspace.com/trumbullplex).



## TRAVEL DIARY by Imants Krumins

### Tourism:

Got a cheap flight to Vienna, with 2 free overnights in a hotel, no strings attached. Railpass got me to Lausanne and Berlin as well. Missed France because of the rail strike, and almost didn't make it to Germany, but their strike finished just before I was going to travel. Vienna has 130 museums, like the Art History Museum - free with plane's boarding pass, Esperanto museum, Globe museum. My hotel was near the Museums Quarter which has a whole street of museums. Tried to get to the Maria Gugging art brut/psychiatric museum <http://www.gugging.org/> - 20 km into the Vienna woods, but when I got there, it was all dark and shut, even though I went well within the winter "open" hours. Did make it to the Art Brut museum <http://www.artbrut.ch/> in Lausanne. It was wonderful to see all the artwork I've been seeing in Raw Vision all these years. Lausanne is a nice small city on Lake Geneva. It's built on a hill, so there's lots of hard work walking up and down hills. Went on a free 3-1/2 hour walking tour in Berlin with <http://www.neweuropetours.eu/> They do tours every day at 11 a.m. in English, Spanish, and German. Meet in front of Starbuck's in Pariser



Exhibit at DDR Berlin



Platz. Berlin has been rebuilt since I was there in 1994. Didn't recognize Potsdamer Platz. There's still lots of wasteland, and dark, badly-lit streets. Still an amazing town. West and East are reversing roles here. Read the tourist books for more info.

#### Gigs:

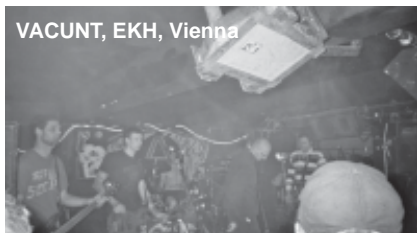
**NURSE WITH WOUND, as Steven Stapleton, Colin Potter, Andrew Liles, Matt Waldron, Hazel Two-Twigs and David Tibet, with BLIND CAVE SALAMANDER.** Nov 21/2007 – Volksbühne, Berlin, Germany <http://www.volksbuehne-berlin.de/> €30. Steven Stapleton said he was doing all these NWW gigs after seeing how easy it was for David Tibet/CURRENT 93. Blind Cave Salamander were ok, very Pink Floydish, and they even did "Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun." NURSE came on as a 5-piece, but were joined by David Tibet on 3 songs, including the "Maldoror Is Dead" encore. They played the Brainticket piece with Hazel reciting the lyrics. And the bald guy (Andrew Liles ?) sang a medley which included "My Baby Takes the Morning Train." There was some sort of morphing film background throughout the show. Very impressive setup and performance. I've been a longtime fan, so this was quite the treat.

#### UNSEEN & REJECTED YOUTH, Vienna Arena, Nov 15/07

I wouldn't have bothered with this if it was a free show on a Saturday night in Hamilton, so why I ventured across town in Vienna on a cold snowy night and paid €2.00, I really don't know. REJECTED YOUTH were terrible. Their lyrics make TOTAL CHAOS seem like literary geniuses. They, for real, did a song called "Making punk a threat again". And there was the acoustic intro, with "this is a song from my heart" while the singer touched his heart. Every song was cringe inducing. They came out for a 3-song encore, even though the crowd showed almost zero interest. I refuse to list their myspace link. At least the UNSEEN are a proper band, and played fine, just not my style. The other 400 people in attendance were having a great time anyway.

#### VACUNT & DETERMINATION at EKH, Vienna, Nov 23/07, €4

I forgot this was a squat gig, and showed up at 20.00. Had to wait until



VACUNT, EKH, Vienna

about 23.00 before DETERMINATION took to the stage. Good hardcore band from the countryside around Vienna.

<http://www.myspace.com/seewinkelhardcore> or <http://www.determination.at>.



DETRMINATION, EKH, Vienna

VACUNT, from Linz, were older guys who've probably been doing this kind of European hardcore for years. More good stuff. <http://www.myspace.com/vacutpunkrock>.

Didn't stick around for the Hungarian band who played after these two, because I didn't like what I saw on their myspace, plus it was late and I hardly slept the night before on the overnight train from Berlin.

**SS-KALIERT + INFECTED** - Vienna, Arena Beisl, Nov 24/07, pay whatever. Smaller room in the block of buildings that is the Vienna Arena, with a young crowd smoking and drinking their faces off and having a great time. INFECTED, decent streetpunk band from the suburbs of Vienna, played first, and went over really well. They have a CD which they were not selling at the gig, but said there was a new one coming out any day now. <http://www.myspace.com/theinfectedstreetpunk>. SS-KALIERT were sloppy as hell, one of the

guitarists wasn't plugged in for the first half-hour, but it didn't matter. Crowd was singing along and going mad. They're on *Punkcore* records in the US, and sound like it, with some Deutschpunk added, like their cover of "Linke Spiesser" by SLIME. Not bad, but a 70 minute set is waaaaay too long. <http://www.myspace.com/sskaliert> / <http://www.sskaliert.de/>

#### Vienna Punk record shops:

**A-sozial**, Rechte Wienzeile 2A, right below Kettenbrueckengasse U4 station / flea market <http://www.ifthekidsareunited.at/>. Dusty shop, with lots of Deutschpunk and Austrian punk on vinyl and CD. Their label, *Viennese Blood*, will release EXTREM dbl-Lp, and DEAD NITTELS LP of 1980's material, as soon as they have enough money. So, order your pins and patches from here, so they can hurry up and release these things.

#### Rave-Up, Hofmühlgasse 1 - <http://www.rave-up.at/>

Not necessarily a punk shop, but I listed it here, because they have all kinds of old 70's UK punk / messthetics / amrep / subpop / 80's Australian / etc 7" in the back room. The guy on the right in the "about us" picture, said he had 8000 x 7" and let me sit in the back room looking through boxes of them. He said he's not on e-bay, and the records have been sitting in the store for many years, so you may want to e-mail him directly about the 2 copies of SKULLFLOWER's first 7", etc. You'll pay for sure, but he's got them.

He also said that SavX shops there, John Peel said that *Rave-Up* is the best record shop in the world, and Beasts of Bourbon (see galerie) stay with him whenever they're in Vienna. I



picked up a few Australian CD's and some 7" in the €10-15 range. He said "Next time you're in Vienna, I'll show you the real rarities" (referring to the Austrian rarities I'd asked about). The glasses guy in the "about us" picture, is their reggae specialist. He released BUNNY BROWN "Let Freedom Ring" 7" on his own *Rayna's* label. Super friendly people all around, and they take plastic.

**Yummy**, Stumpergasse 31 - <http://tupalo.com/spot/572-yummy-vienna-austria>. More emo and skate oriented, but similar to A-sozial. Some back issues of *Plastic Bomb* and *Ox* available here.

#### Vienna second-hand record shops:

<http://homepage.univie.ac.at/horst.prillinger/vienna/jazzrecordshops.html> lists a whole bunch of used second-hand shops in their jazz list. Most of these have lots of dusty old vinyl in all genres. Best are <http://www.rocktiger.com/> and Sing Sing. Tourists for Euro 2008 will find all kinds of old stuff. Every shop has too many records squeezed into every available space.

**Rock Tiger** had the CD version of the "Wiener Bluttausch" (1979) comp LP, which was put out by members of DRAHDIWABERL <http://www.myspace.com/122836080> in the early 1990's. Apparently the LP goes for €300-400, because the bass player of DRAHDIWABERL was FALCO of "Rock Me Amadeus" and "Der Kommissar" fame.

#### Others in Vienna:

The **Kettenbrueckengasse U4** station / flea market on Saturdays, has 5 or 6 used vinyl dealers. The Rock Tiger guy says you have to be there at 5 a.m. to scoop the dealers on anything rare.

**Totem**, Zollerg 18-20 - <http://www.totem-records.com/> has new/used black metal, occult, industrial vinyl and CD's.

**Record Bag**, Kollergergasse 4 - <http://www.recordbag.at/> has clean new CD's and clothes, lots of indies.

Seems there are very few non-mainstream new release shops. Not sure where the used shops will get their future items.

#### **Berlin punk record shops:**

**Core Tex**, Oranienstr 3, Kreuzberg 36, U1 Görlitzer Bahnhof - <http://www.myspace.com/coretex> / <http://www.coretexrecords.com/> Longstanding great shop / label / mailorder. It's their 20th anniversary this year (2007), and they take plastic. Prepare to spend lots of money. They even had the nerve to release the new SHAM 69 CD.

**Vopo**, Danzigerstr 31, Prenzlauerberg, U2 Eberswalder str - <http://www.vopo-records.de/>

Last time I was there was at their old address in 1991. This location and selection is much bigger. Cash and German credit cards only.

**Real Deal**, Gneisenaustr 60, Kreuzberg 61, U7 Südsterne - <http://www.realdealpunk.de/>. Never been to this one before, but again a really good selection. Cash only. One of their people had just returned from Barcelona, and had a bunch of Spanish stuff.

**Yellow Dog**, Wühlischstr 38, Friedrichshain, U1 Warschauer str - <http://web52.bces-2045.de/home.html> / <http://yellowdog.de/>. You know the mailorder and label. The shop is full of international hardcore. Sven sings in Berlin band, COLD WAR, who have releases on *Deep Six*.

**Bis Auf's Messer**, Marchlewskistr 107, Friedrichshain, U1 Warschauer str - <http://www.bisaufsmesser.com/>. Lots of hardcore, emo, punk, etc. Seems to be a hangout. Met fans of HAYMAKER and other Canadian bands here.

**Wowsville**, Skalitzerstr 80, Kreuzberg 36, U1 Görlitzer Bahnhof or Schlesisches Tor - <http://www.myspace.com/wowsvilleberlin>. Garage punk shop - it's Alberto from Valencia, who ran Wowsville in NYC, before relocating to Berlin.

#### **Others in Berlin:**

**Pigasus Gallery**, Torstr 62, Mitte, U2 Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz - <http://www.pigasus-gallery.de/>. I ran into this store on the way to Staalplaat and Volksbühne, when picking up my NWW ticket. Surprisingly this poster gallery had all kinds of Polish and Russian punk CD's. Cash only in the store, although I see they take paypal in their mailorder. A pleasant surprise, and recommended.

**Staalplaat**, Torstr. 68, Mitte, U2 Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz - <http://www.staalplaat.com/>. World famous industrial noise shop and label, relocated from Amsterdam (and Torstr 72 in Berlin).

I went into several used shops, with lots of old vinyl, some ok and some with a puppy-dog eyed shopkeeper, who probably hadn't seen a customer in days. Lots of dusty digging if you can be bothered.

TOTEN HOSEN have all their CD's reissued as remastered jubilee editions with extra songs and photos. Had to go to a huge dept store type shop on Friedrichstr to pick 'em up, although any major label record shop will have them.

#### **Lausanne record shop:**

**Bel Air**, Rue des Terreaux 9 - <http://belair.li/>. Small used shop, which had the Swiss punk book for 65 Swiss francs. I didn't bother, because it weighs almost as much as my suitcase.

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Hugh Cornwall: A Multitude of Sins**

This is an autobiography of the singer from the STRANGLERS as he chronicles his life of the major vices that rock stars come against. You know the holy trinity of sex, drugs and rock 'n roll form the first major chapters of the book. But there are some other stories that Hugh throws in on celebrity and the "Rest of the World" among others. It's a collection of interesting road stories, surreal observations, and some poignant thoughts on things like incarceration. Hugh is more an accidental critic of the UK penal system. "A Multitude of Sins" starts with the most asked question why did you walk out on the STRANGLERS. The book ends with some kind words about his former band mates. Then the story starts at Hugh's beginnings. He talks about primary school and how he gets shaped towards certain things. Eventually he talks about doing Graduate work in Sweden and how he first started playing in bands with some war resistor Yanks. And the stories start rolling out. In some case the stories are patchy, but upon reflection both writers work to give this a remarkable amount of flow.

Some of the fascinating stories are about various musicians of the time and how their lives intersect. I find it interesting to read about the intersecting lives of the punks at the time like Ian Dury, Bill Idol, Joe

Strummer, and Talczy Malc. But there are also interesting stories about Robert Plant, Frank Zappa, David Bowie and some jazz artists who are gather are famous.

Hugh provides great insight into Belgium and place called the Miraneau. He nails the politeness of Japanese



groupies, which I have heard from others. There are some weird stories about the Land of Aus, which gets into John Bjelke Petersen, the inspiration behind the "Wizard of Aus". Hugh swears by Icelandic sweaters and why a band would even tour there is amazing to me. There is a weird story about the Italian customs officer which involves automatic weapons. Hugh explains the French phenomenon of "Sharp Bread and Furry Tongue". Hugh has some mixed stories about teddy boys, one in the UK and a recurring feud with the Raggare from Klippan Sweden. And there is a story about the Hell's Angels in Amsterdam that is bizarre. There is a whole chapter on the States, which is more historical from a band timeline perspective, but the main point is that there are cultural differences between Brits and Yanks.

*Vice* magazine used to have these oddball stories involving celebrity and brushes with fame. Well Hugh writes about this throughout the book but also dedicates a whole chapter to his own set of stories. The Rolling Stones are a recurring presence, which starts with Mick Jagger slagging off the STRANGLERS to the press







A rarely seen photo of the STRANGLERS

which turned out to be an unintentional marketing event for the band. But he later befriends Charlie Watts and gets really sick off of vintage wine at his place. There is a funny story about Johnny Rotten nearly missing an appearance on Judge Judy. The inadvertent sabotage of a LED ZEPPELIN reunion tour is classic. There is a run in involving JOE JACKSON, a meeting with Adam West in costume, and stories about the hospitality of the TUBES. The section is written as isolated vignettes and is a great read.

The book also takes some time to explain some of the stories behind some of the songs. Hugh mentions a more thorough book called "Song By Song" that I am dying to check out now, but there is a substantial amount of context extolled here. Songs like "All Road Lead



Hugh getting out of prison

to Rome" being about New York or "Dagenham Dave" who was one of the STRANGLERS most loyal fans and committed suicide because he had trouble sharing the band. A chapter called "Heroes" explains "No More Heroes", but also gets into a number of characters that appear in

STRANGLERS songs. Like you probably know who Trostky is but have you ever wondered who the fuck Sancho Panza is? And the characters that I do know still have interesting takes by the singer about who these folks are. And did you know that Frank Sinatra tried to sue the STRANGLERS for "Nice 'n Sleazy".

The STRANGLERS got up to a lot of trouble and had a lot of adventure in the process. They wrote some awesome songs, particularly in their early years and in a way this book becomes a storyline to their recorded material, which could now be relegated to soundtrack status. And what punk in their right mind wouldn't want to read a book with "No More Heroes" in the soundtrack? (HarperCollins.co.uk) - SP



Antics during a version of "Nice 'n Sleazy"

## RUMOURMILL

Thought Crime will be releasing a split LP between SOLID DECLINE and RUIDOSA INMUNDICIA \* Vinyl Addict Records just released a FIX MY HEAD ep who are from Oakland and feature the singer from SCURVY DOGS \* There's a new DOA record coming out titled "Northern Avenger". It's produced by Bob Rock is the dude from the PAYOLAS and produced many of the early Vancouver punk scene \* Vancouver grind masters MASS GRAVE are set to tour Europe for the months of August and September \* LIMB FROM LIMB also touring Europe around that time has had a recent lineup change with guitarist Blinky handling vocal duties.

## SHOW LISTINGS

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20th** @ Casbah (Hamilton) - RAMMER, PORCELAIN YOUTH, DESTORY WITHIN  
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23rd** @ Casbah (Hamilton) - TEENAGE HEAD, HARBOUR RATS  
**SATURDAY MARCH 1st** @ Celtes Pub (2837 Dundas Street West at Keele) - THE DIABOLLOCKS, ANARCHY IN THECA, FIDGET  
**SATURDAY MARCH 1st** @ Casbah (Hamilton) - THE FALLOUT, BROADCAST ZERO, BLACKJACKET, SUICIDE PILOTS  
**SUNDAY MARCH 9th** @ Casbah (Hamilton) - BOB MOULD  
**SUNDAY MARCH 16th** @ Reverb - THE VANDALS, HOSTAGE LIFE, BROWN BRIGADE  
*- Steel City Rockers: tribute to Joe Strummer -*  
**FRIDAY MARCH 21st** @ Casbah (Hamilton)  
**SATURDAY MARCH 22nd** @ Sneaky Dee's - CURSED (III release show), CAREER SUICIDE, 50 WATT HEAD, LIVING DARKNESS  
**WEDNESDAY APRIL 2nd** @ Sneaky Dee's - TEENAGE BOTTLE ROCKETS, THE COPYRIGHTS, THE VAPIDS  
**FRIDAY APRIL 4th** @ Westside Theatre (Hamilton) - old CHTV building - SIMPLY SAUCER (record release for "Half Human Half Live")  
**THURSDAY APRIL 10th** @ Cathedral - TIME AGAIN, HELL YEAH FUCK YEAH, PDH  
**SATURDAY APRIL 19th** @ Sneaky Dee's - LORDS  
**SATURDAY APRIL 19th** @ Rancho Relaxo - USED KIDS (x-Modern Machines)  
**SUNDAY APRIL 27th** @ Studio 3 - EVICTION PARTY (from Halifax)  
**SUNDAY MAY 9th** @ TBA - CLOAK / DAGGER  
**THURSDAY MAY 29th** @ Cathedral - RESTARTS, G-MEN, MURDERSQUAD, CLUSTERBOMBS, PANTY CHRIST

If there is a show that you know about that isn't on this list, please forward it onto us at [equalizingxdistort@ciut.fm](mailto:equalizingxdistort@ciut.fm)





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